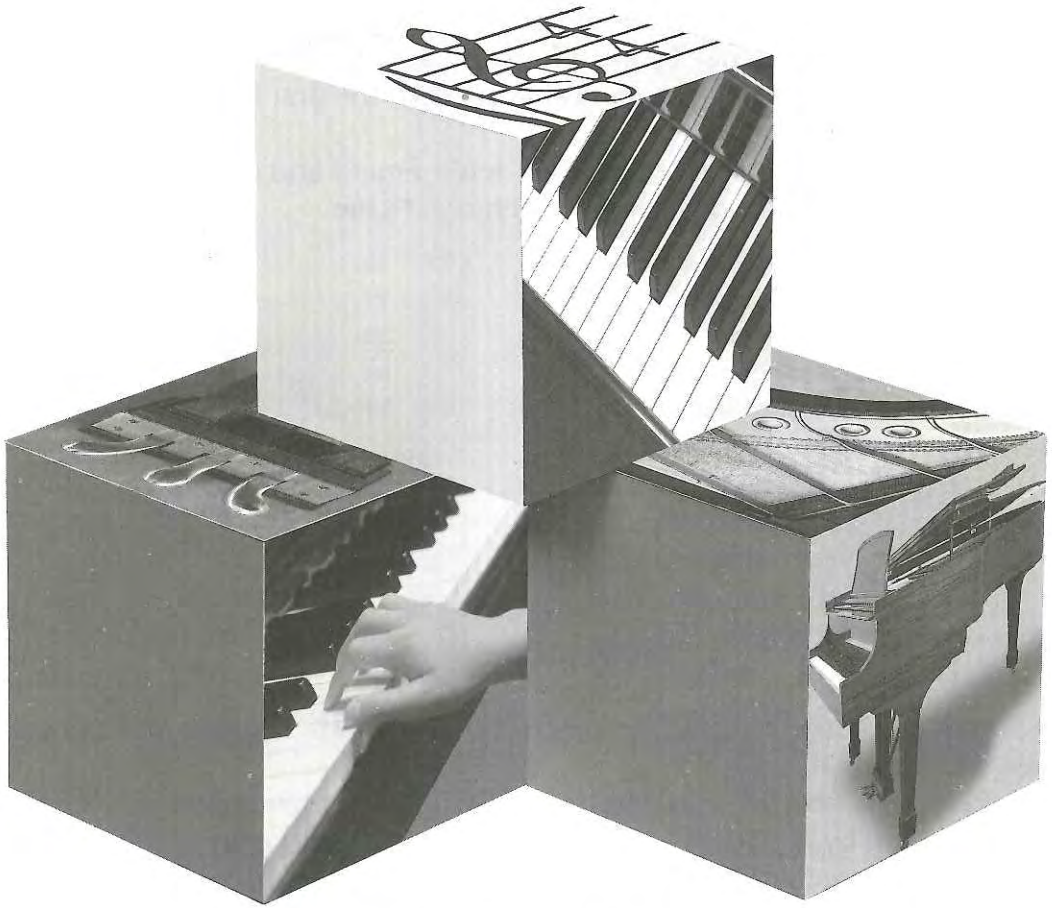
VISIT…

ST. LAWRENCE

BASTIEN PIANO BASICS

Piano for the Young Beginner

PRIMER A



BY JAMES BASTIEN

JUL 1 9 2010

KJOS NEIL A. KJOS MUSIC COMPANY • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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*To reinforce the feeling of achievement, the teacher or student may put a ✔ when the page has been mastered.

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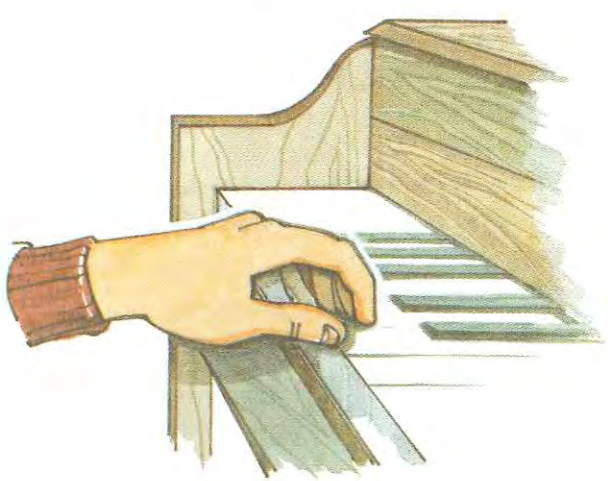
Sitting at the Piano

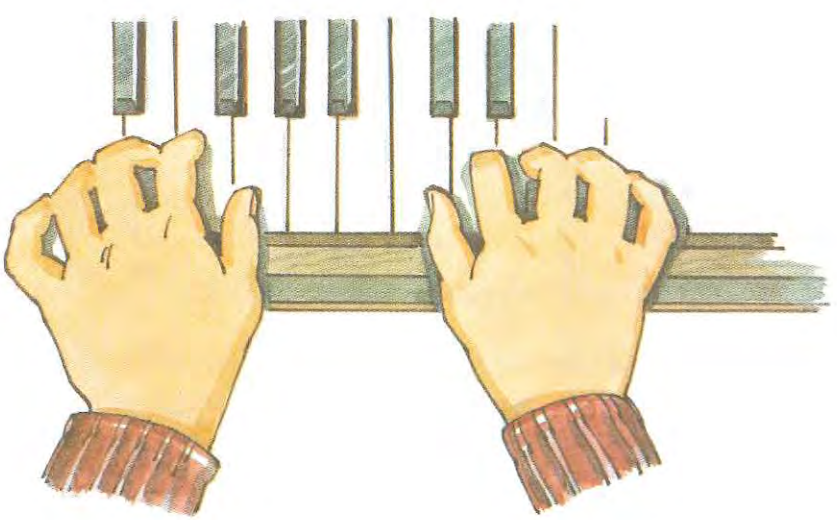
■ Sit up straight facing the center of the piano. Place your feet flat on the floor. If your feet do not reach the floor, it is helpful to have a footstool or books under them when you practice.

■ Sit high enough to reach the keys easily. Do you have a piano stool or chair at home which moves up and down? If not, cushions or books may be used to help you sit at the correct height when you practice.

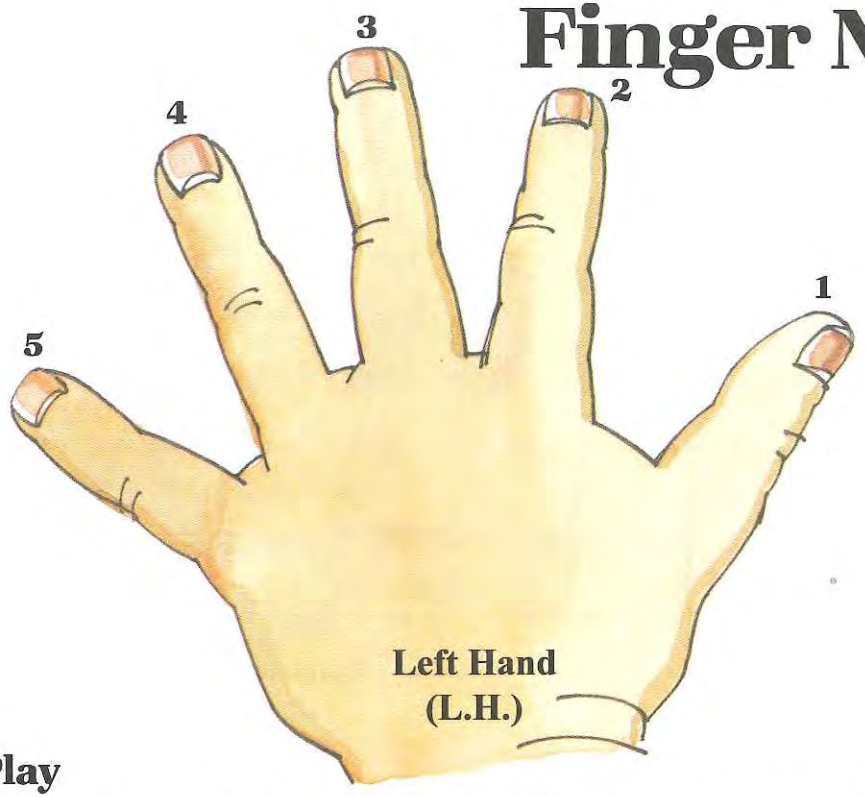
Hand Position

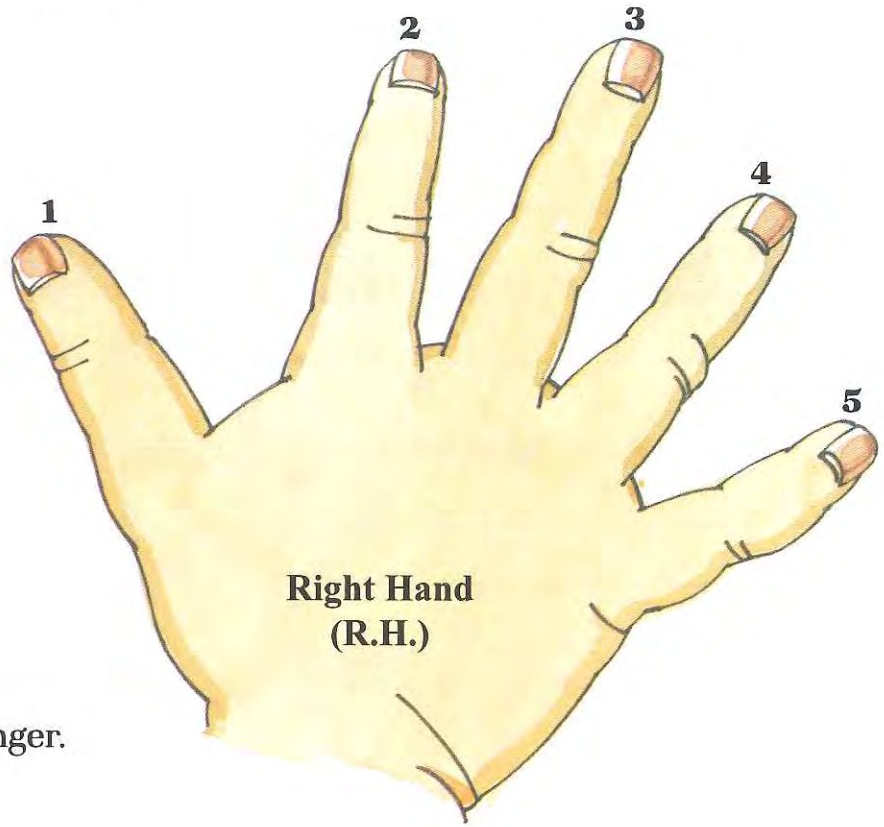
■ Hold your fingers in a nice **curved shape**. Imagine you are holding a ball in each hand. That is the way the fingers should be curved when playing the piano. Your wrists should be level with your arms.





Finger Numbers





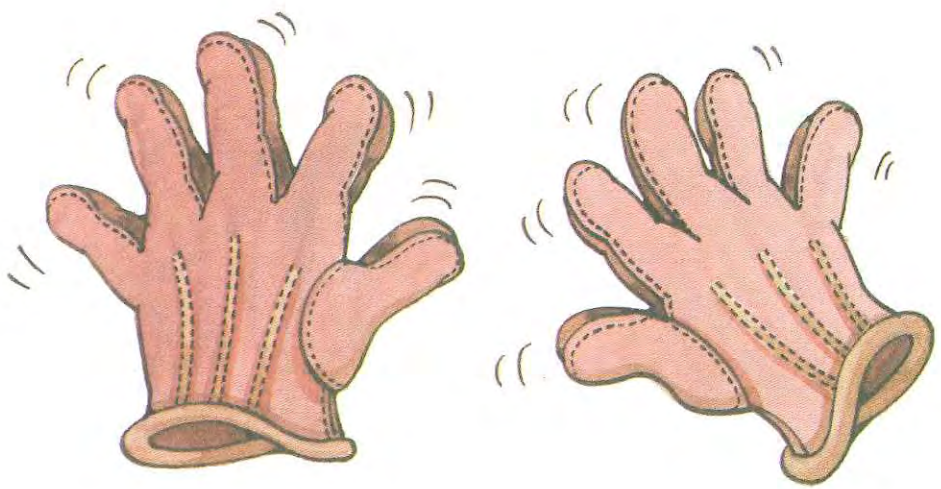
Pencil Play

Draw an outline of your hands on a piece of paper. Number each finger.

Practice Directions

Hold up your hands and wiggle your fingers.

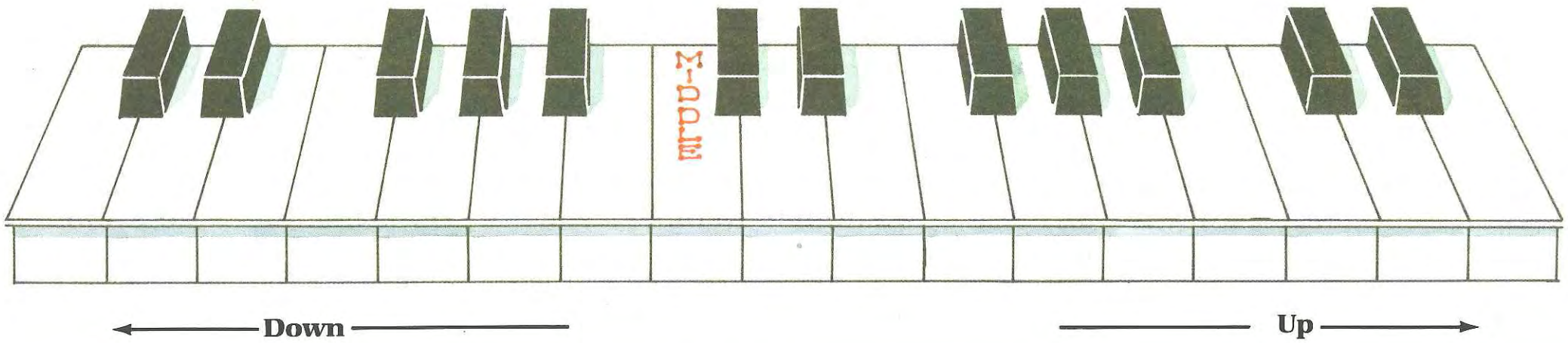
- Wiggle your **1st** fingers (thumbs).
- Wiggle your **2nd** fingers.
- Wiggle your **3rd** fingers.
- Wiggle your **4th** fingers.
- Wiggle your **5th** (little) fingers.



Your teacher, or someone in your family, can name fingers for you to wiggle in either hand.

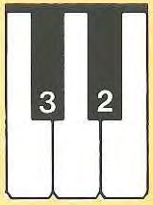
Black Keys

The black keys are in sets of **2**'s and **3**'s.

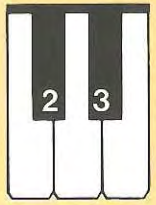


Practice Directions

1. With your L.H., play 2 black keys.



2. With your R.H., play 2 black keys.

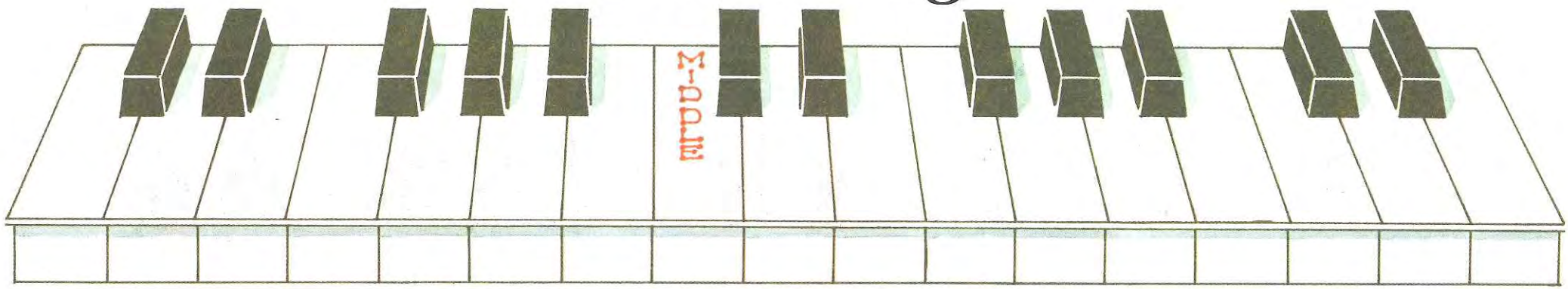


3. With your L.H., play 3 black keys.

4. With your R.H., play 3 black keys.

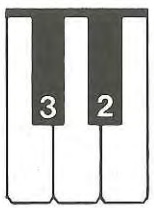
Teacher: The black key sets can be played together or one at a time. Have the student play all of the sets of 2 black keys and 3 black keys on the piano.

Low and High



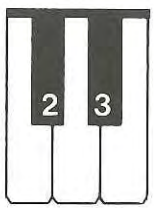
Low **High**

1. With your L.H., play 2 low black keys.



2. With your L.H., play 3 low black keys.

3. With your R.H., play 2 high black keys.



4. With your R.H., play 3 high black keys.

Rhythm in Music

1. Rhythm in music is made by both short and long notes.

Quarter note

Count: quar-ter

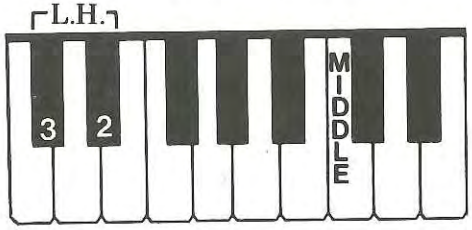
Half note

Count: half note

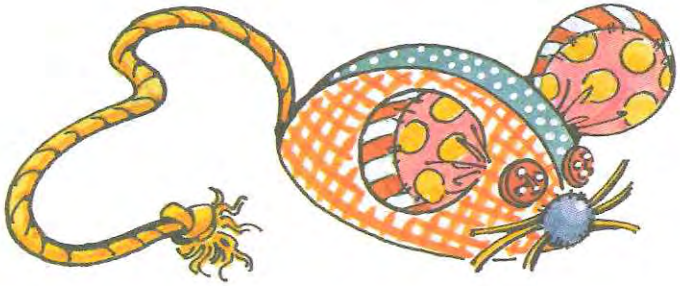
2. Notes are divided by **bar lines** into **measures**.

Bar line | **Measure** | **Bar line** | **Measure** ‖ **Double bar line** used at the end of a piece

Left Hand Position



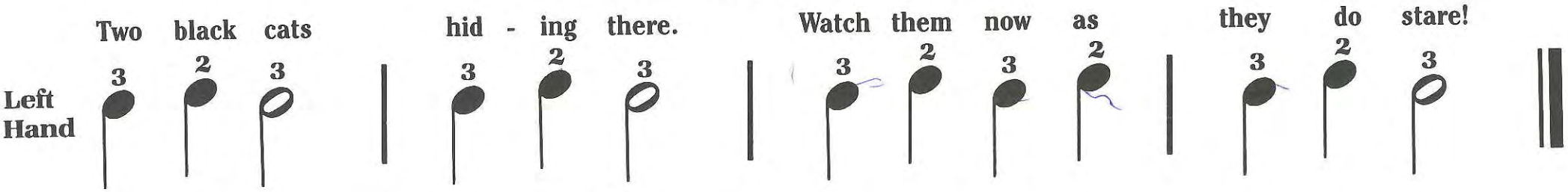
★ **Down stem** (𝅗𝅥) = L.H. will play.



Practice Directions

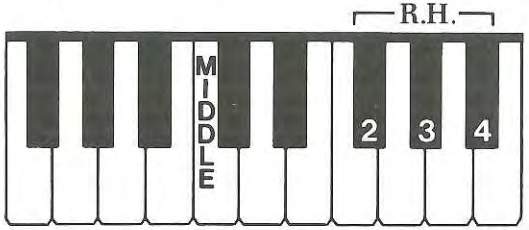
1. Clap and count the rhythm aloud.
2. Find the correct hand position.
3. Play and sing the finger numbers.
4. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
5. Play and sing the words.

Two Black Cats

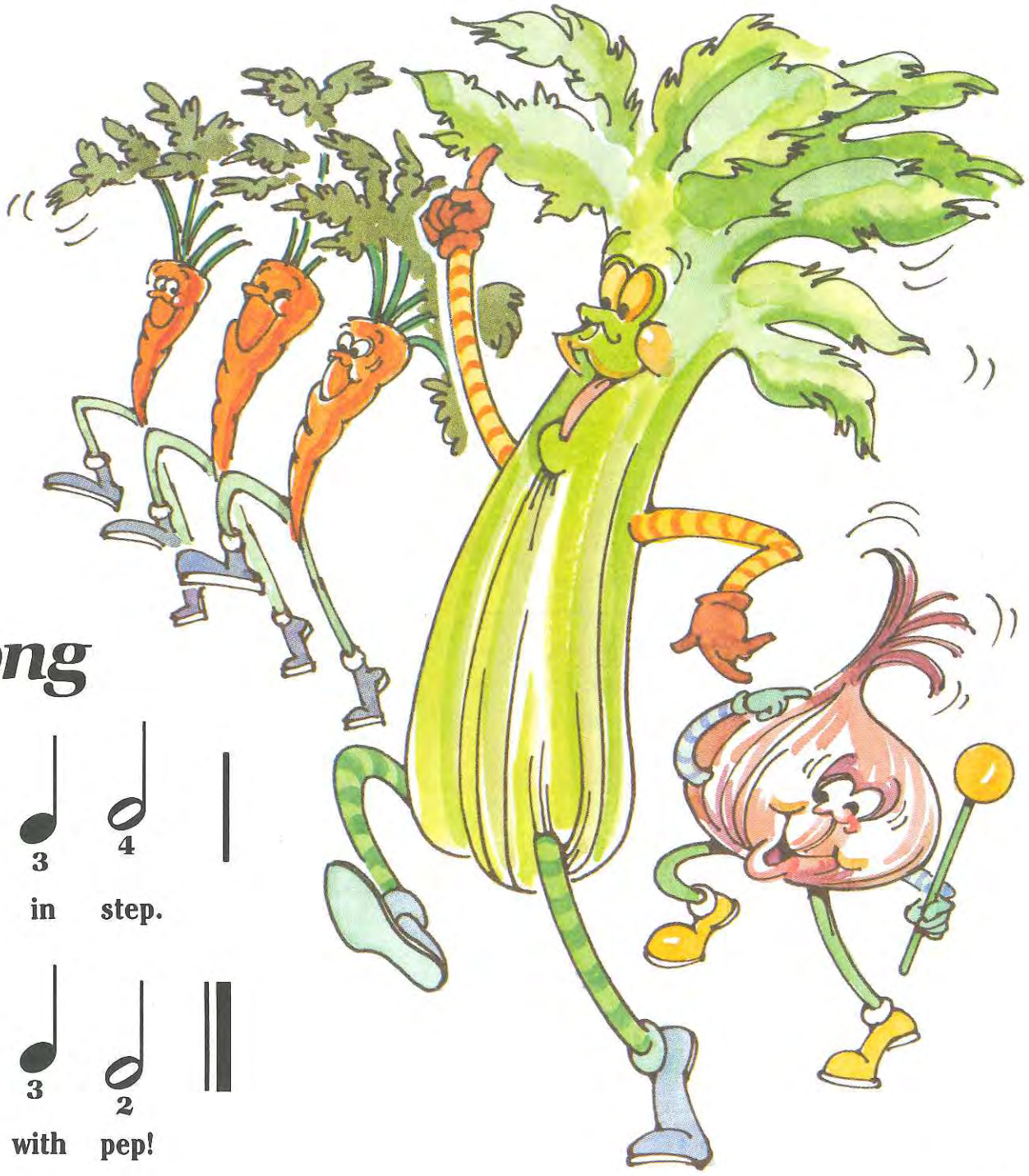


★ Follow the Practice Directions on page 8.

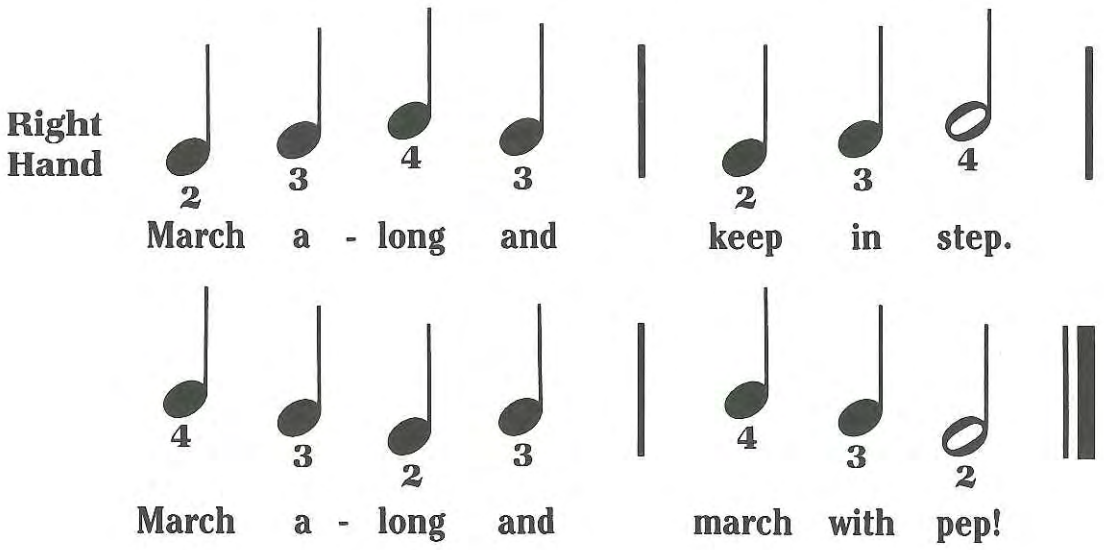
Right Hand Position



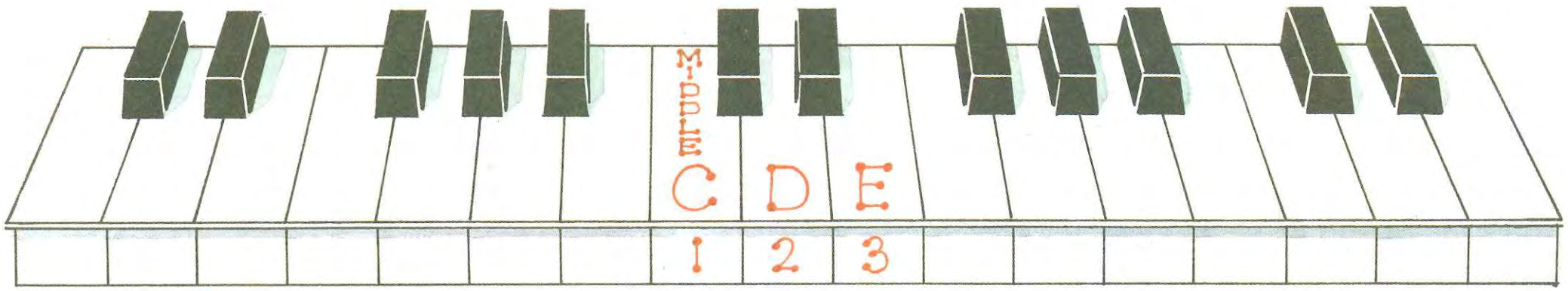
★ **Up stem** (♩) = R.H. will play.



Marching Song



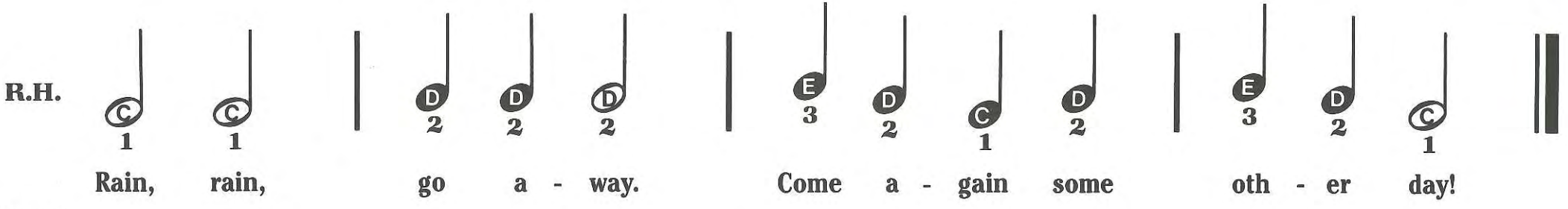
White Keys



Practice Directions

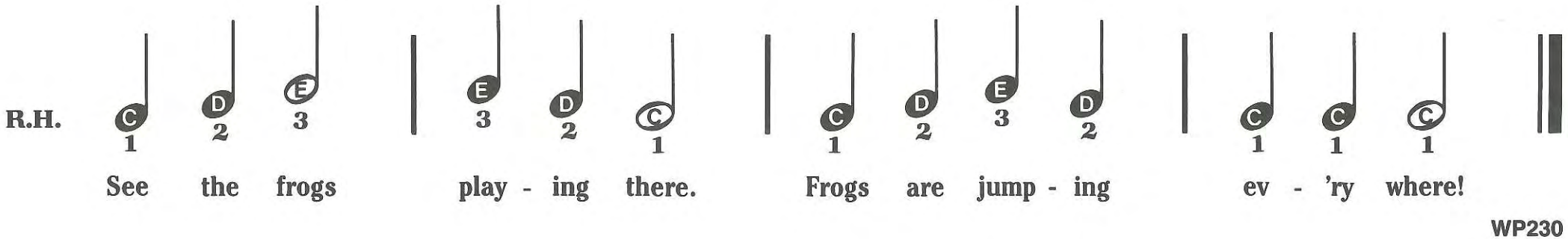
1. Clap and count the rhythm aloud.
2. Find the correct hand position.
3. Play and sing the finger numbers aloud.
4. Play and name the notes aloud.
5. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
6. Play and sing the words.

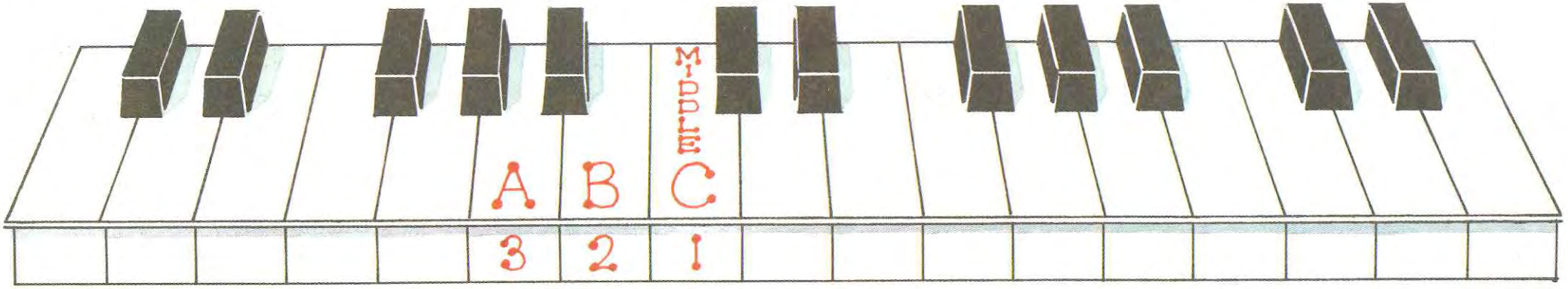
Rain, Rain



★ Follow the Practice Directions on page 10.

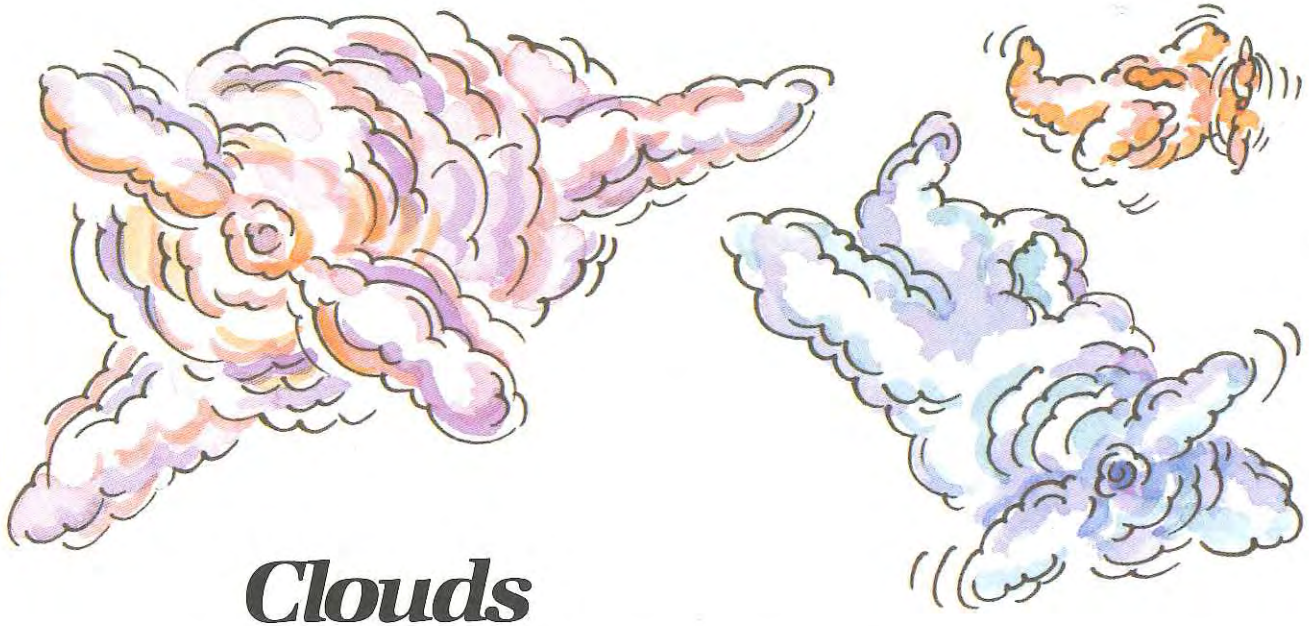
Jumping Frogs



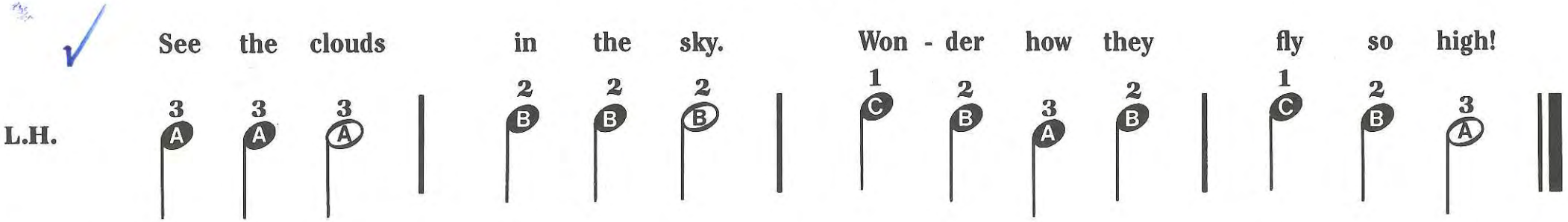


Practice Directions

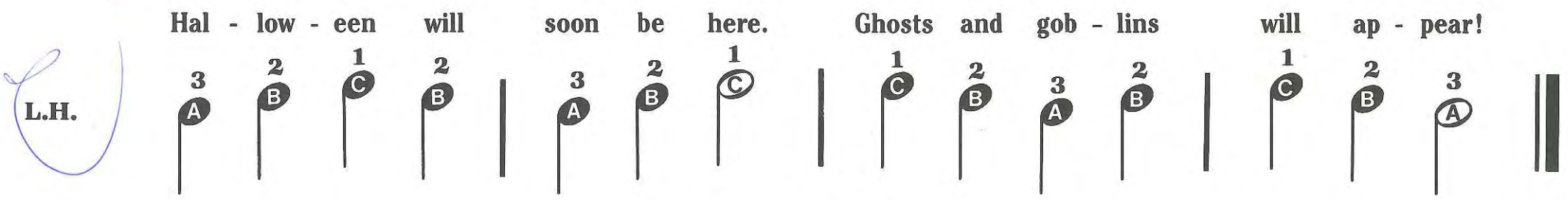
1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

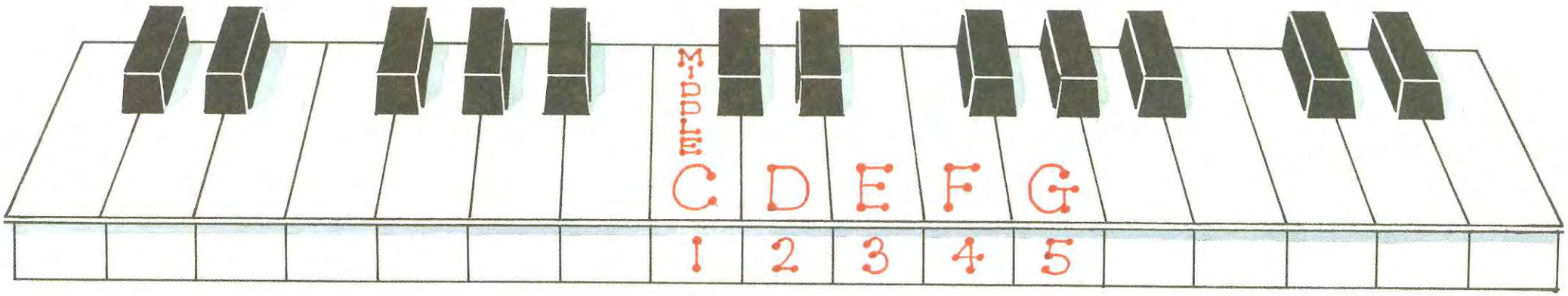


Clouds



Halloween

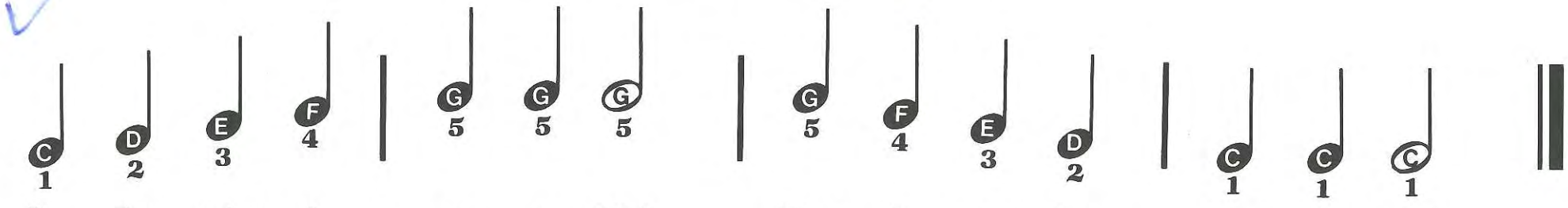

Hal - low - een will soon be here. Ghosts and gob - lins will ap - pear!
L.H.
3 2 1 2 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 1 2 3
A B C B A B C C B A B C B A



Practice Directions

1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

On the Swing

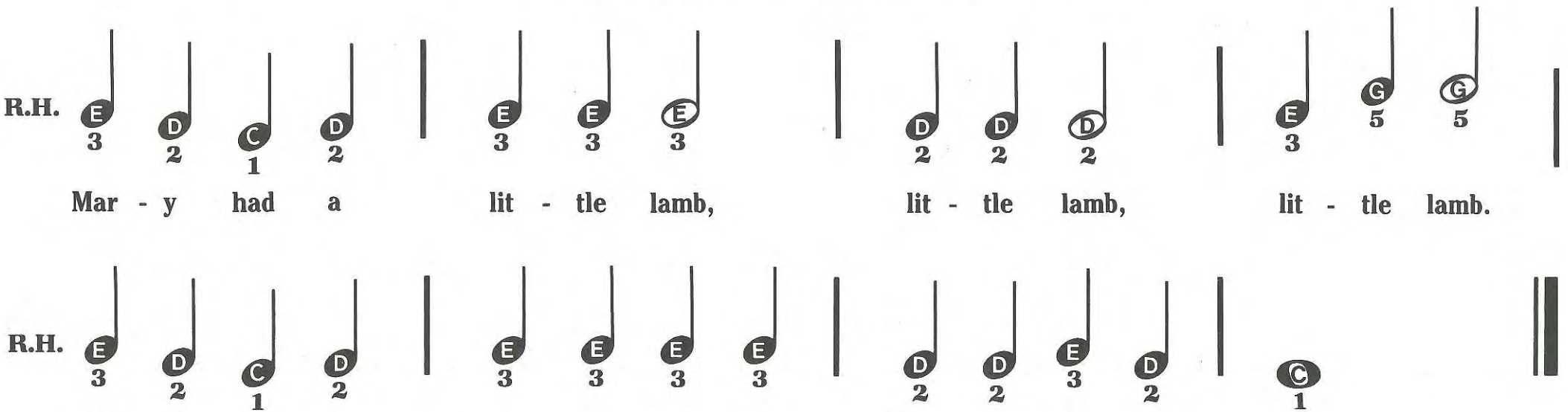


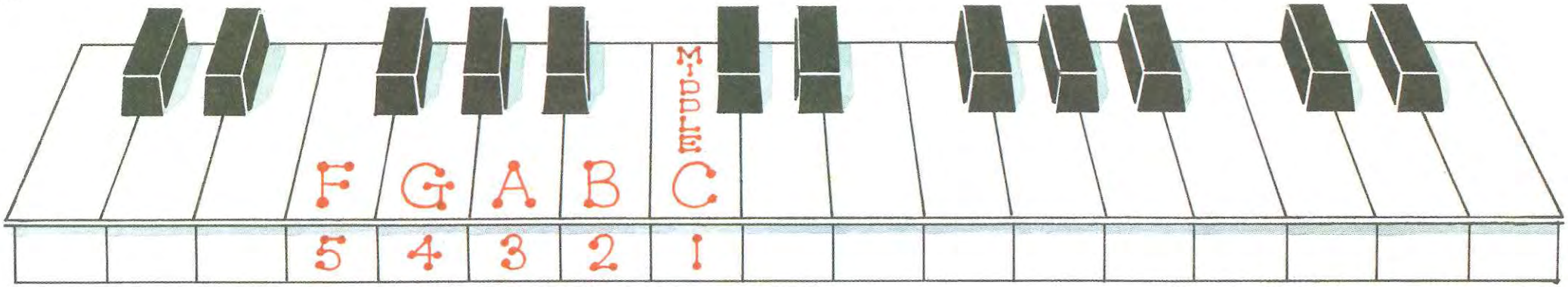
Whole Note

o

Count: whole note hold it

Mary's Lamb

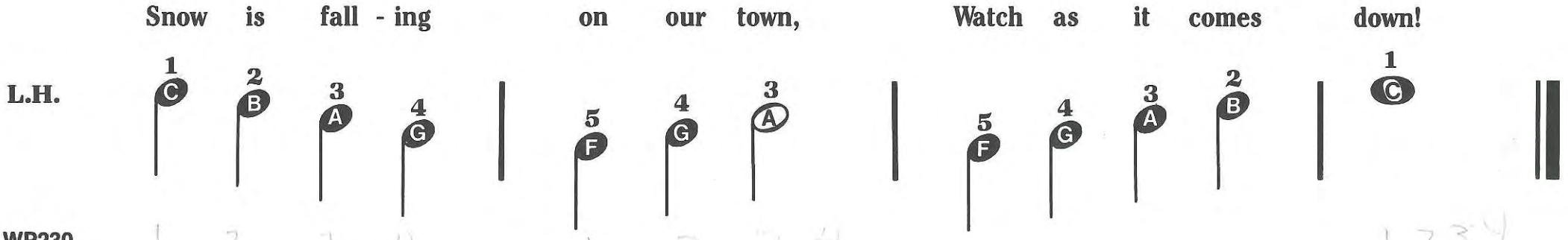




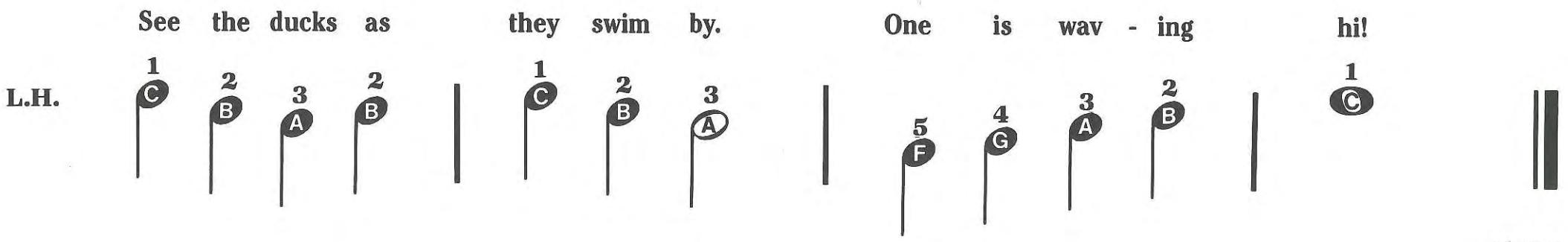
Practice Directions

1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

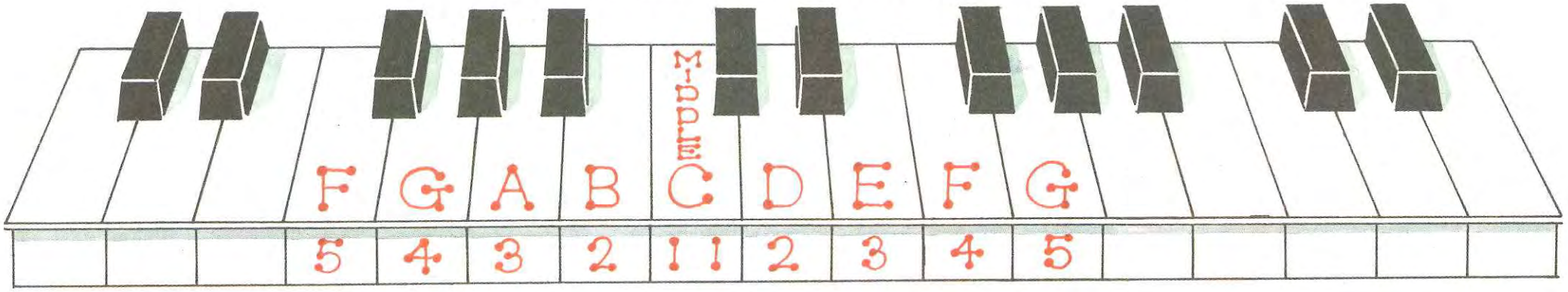
Snow in Winter



Ducks on the Pond



Middle C Position



Practice Directions

1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

Old MacDonald

R.H.

1. Old Mac - Don - ald had a farm, E - I - E - I - O!
2. On this farm he had a cow, E - I - E - I - O!

L.H.

1 C, 1 C, 1 C, 4 G, 3 A, 3 A, 4 G, E 3, E 3, D 2, D 2, C 1

The two dots are a **repeat sign.** Play again from the beginning.

R.H. C 1 C 1 C 1 — Moo, moo, here,

L.H. C 1 C 1 C 1 — Moo, moo, there,

R.H. C 1 C 1 C 1 C 1 — Ev - 'ry - where a

R.H. C 1 C 1 C 1 — moo, moo, moo!

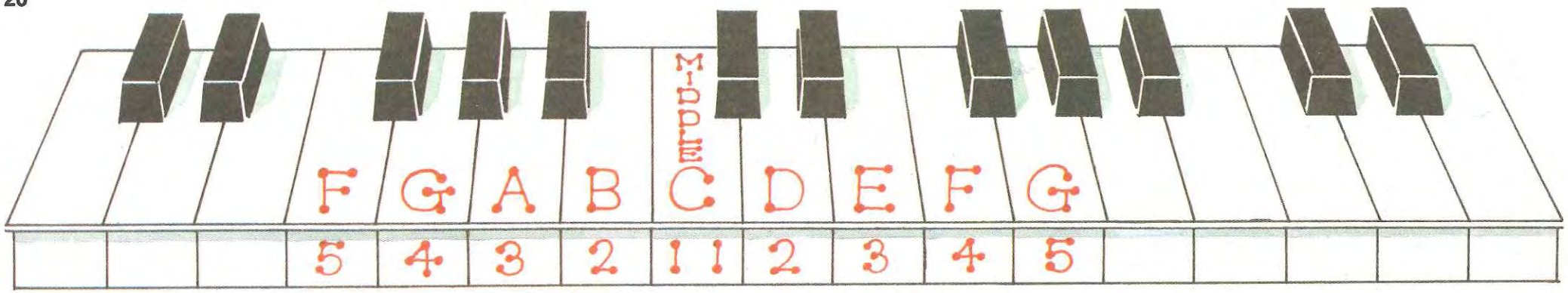
R.H. E 3 E 3 D 2 D 2 — E - I - E - I -

R.H. C 1 — O!

L.H. C 1 C 1 C 1 G 4 — Old Mac - Don - ald

L.H. A 3 A 3 G 4 — had a farm,

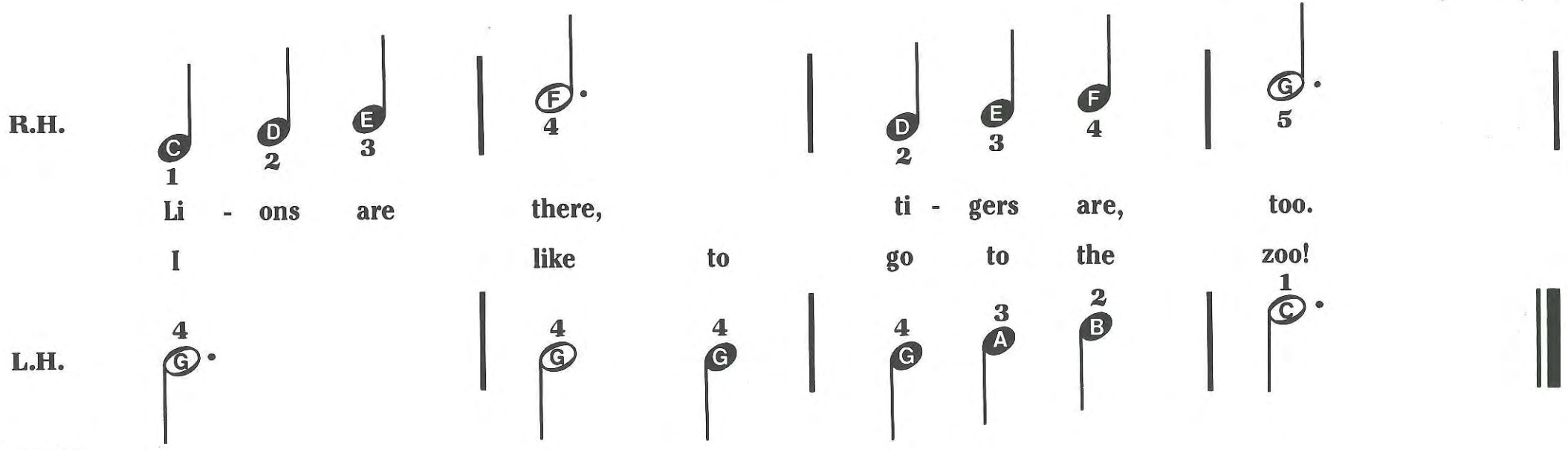
Teacher: This song can be played many times using different animal names.

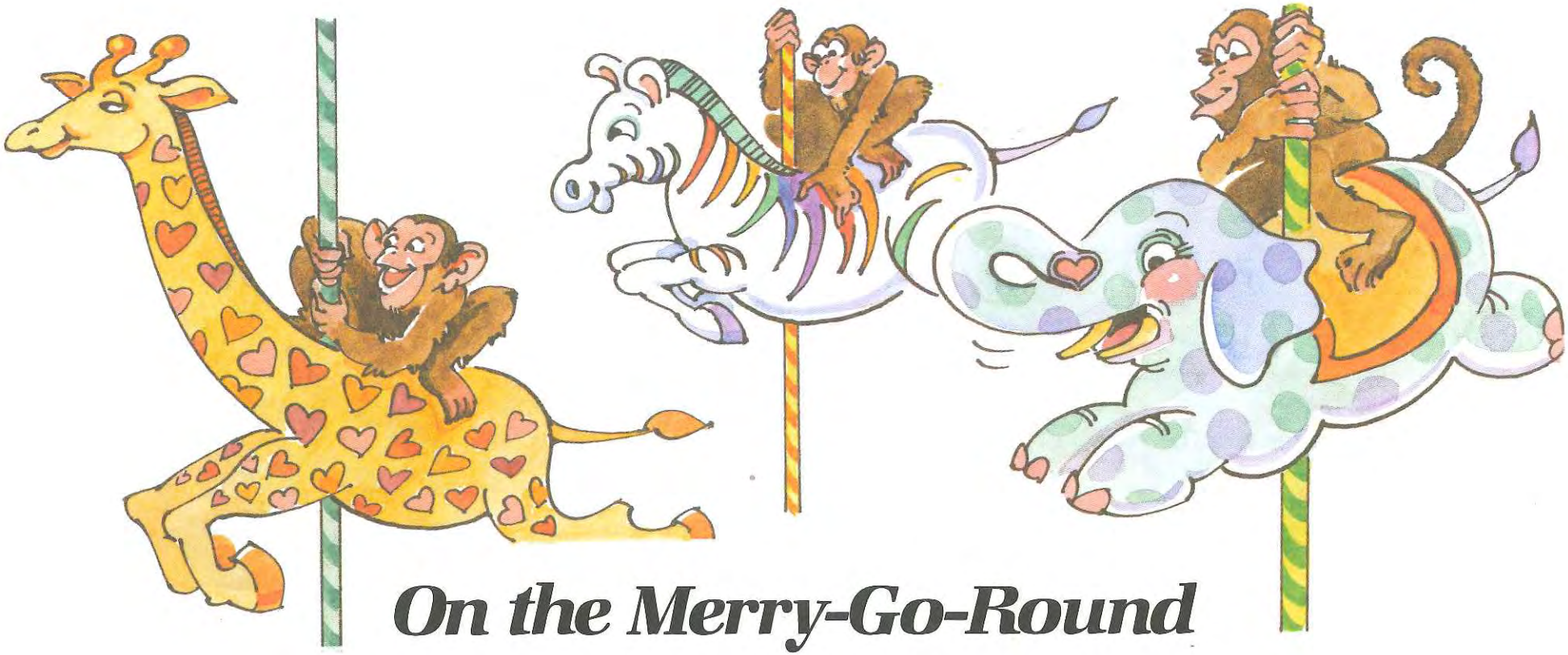


Dotted Half Note

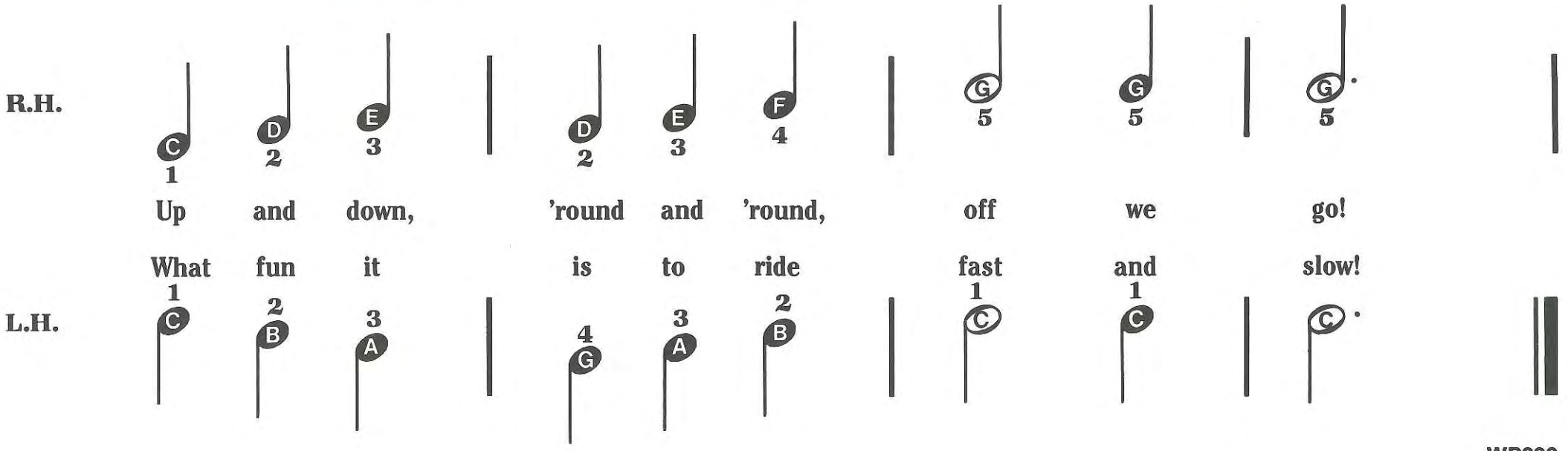
Count: half note dot

At the Zoo

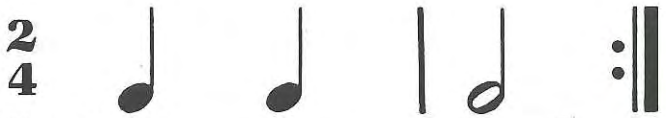




On the Merry-Go-Round

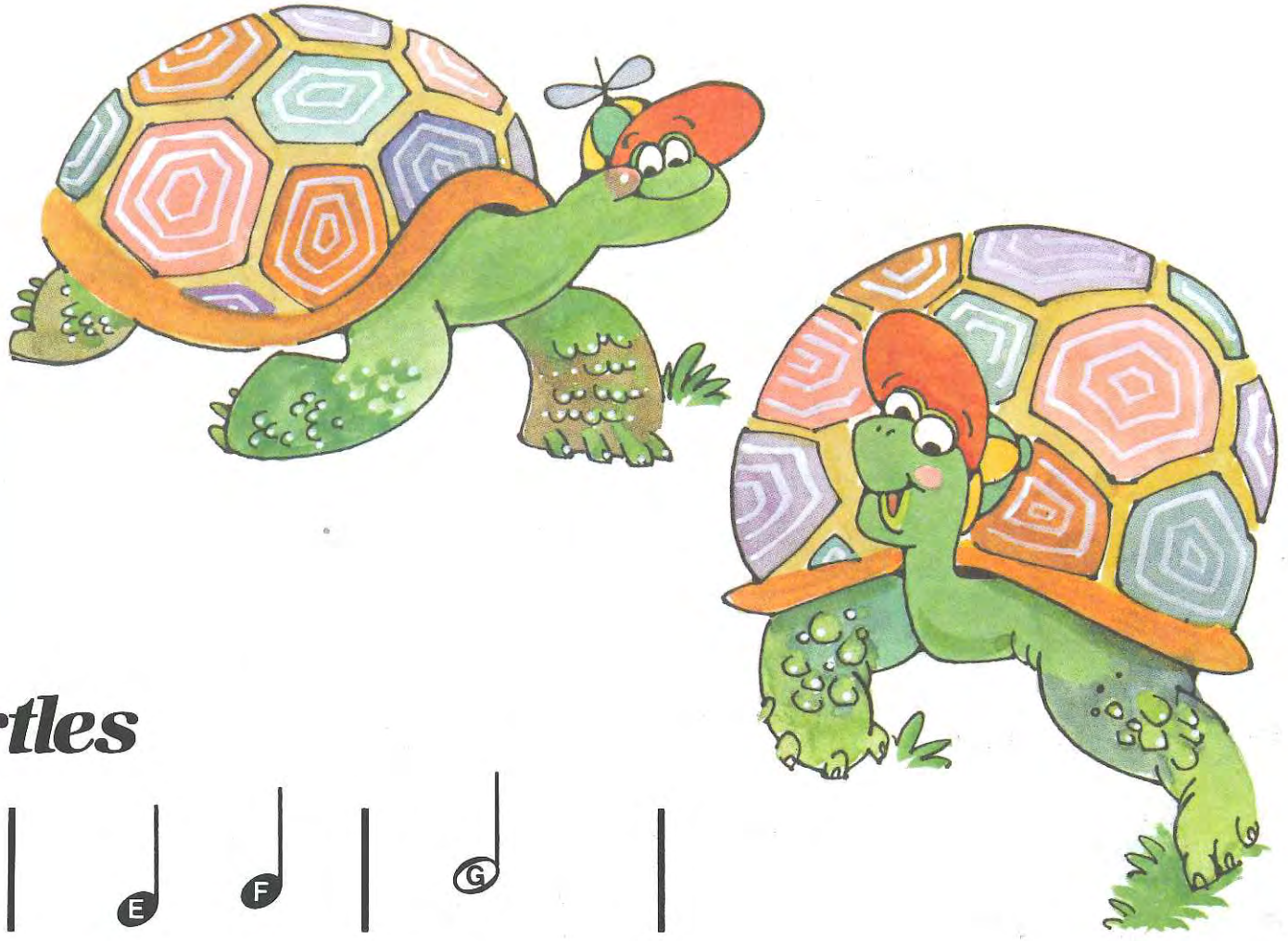


Time Signature



Count: 1 2 1 2

or: quar-ter quar-ter half note

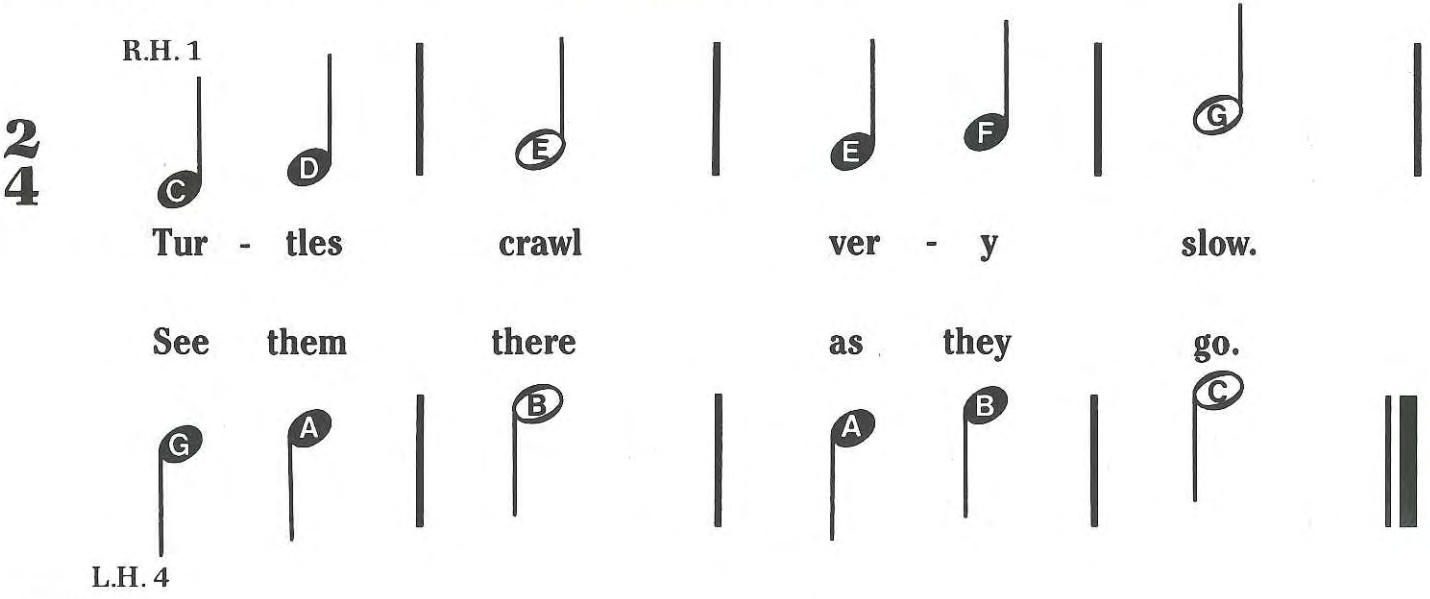


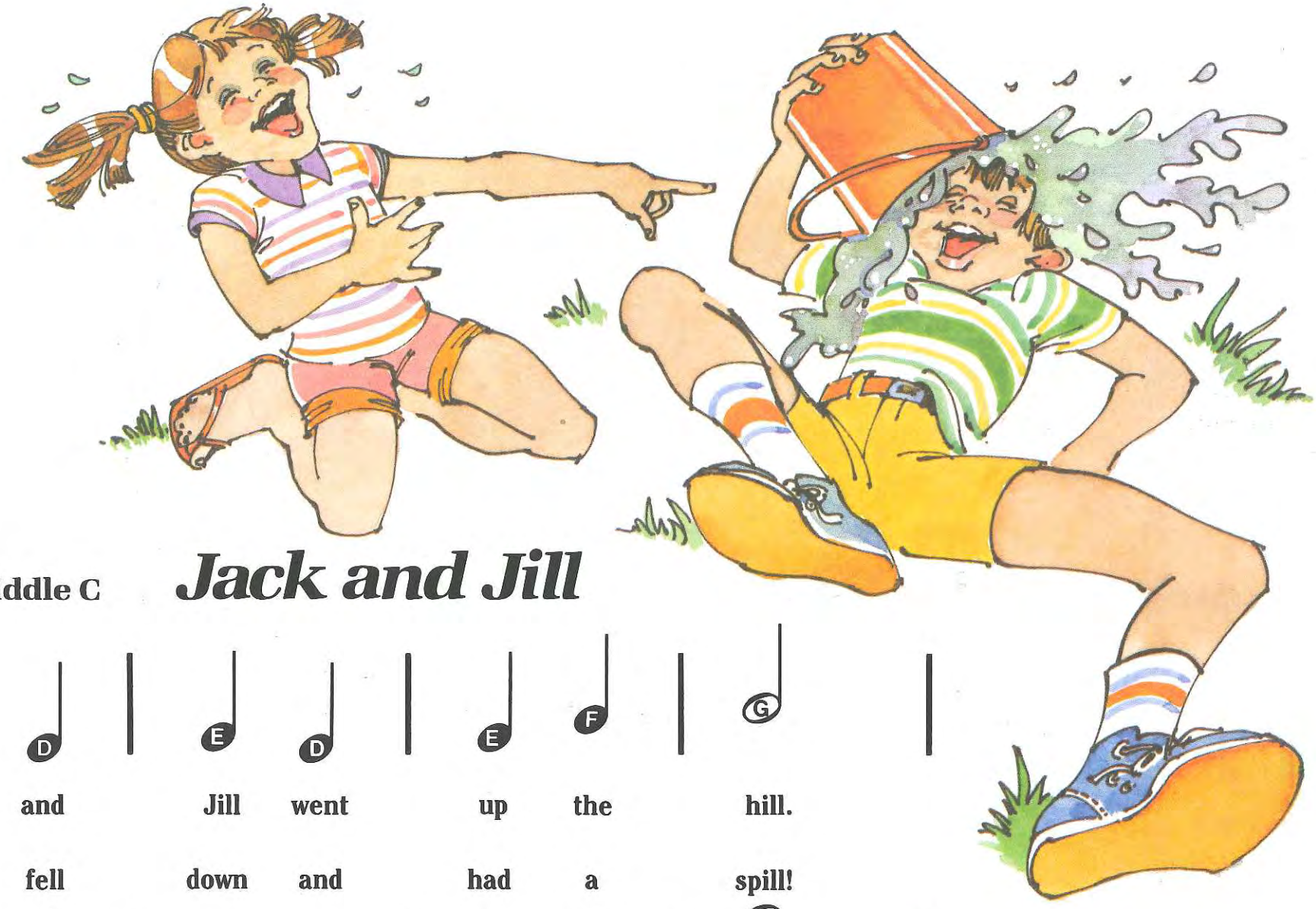
Practice Directions

1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

Position: Middle C

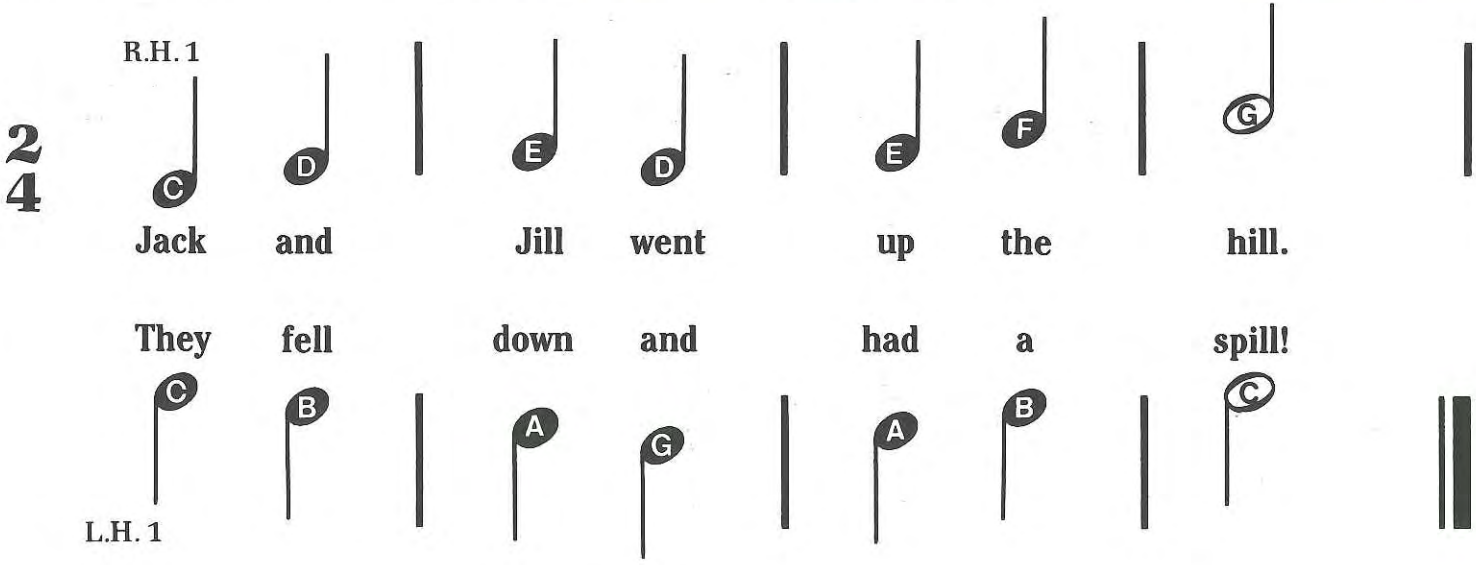
Turtles





Position: Middle C

Jack and Jill



3/4

Count: 1 2 3 1 2 3
or: quar-ter quar-ter quar-ter half note dot

Practice Directions
1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

My Pet

Position: Middle C

R.H. 1

3/4

C D E D D E F G

Pup - pies are nice. Kit - tens are, too.

I have a cat. It goes "mew, mew."

C B A G G A B C

L.H. 1

The Bell Tower

Position: Middle C

R.H. 3

3/4

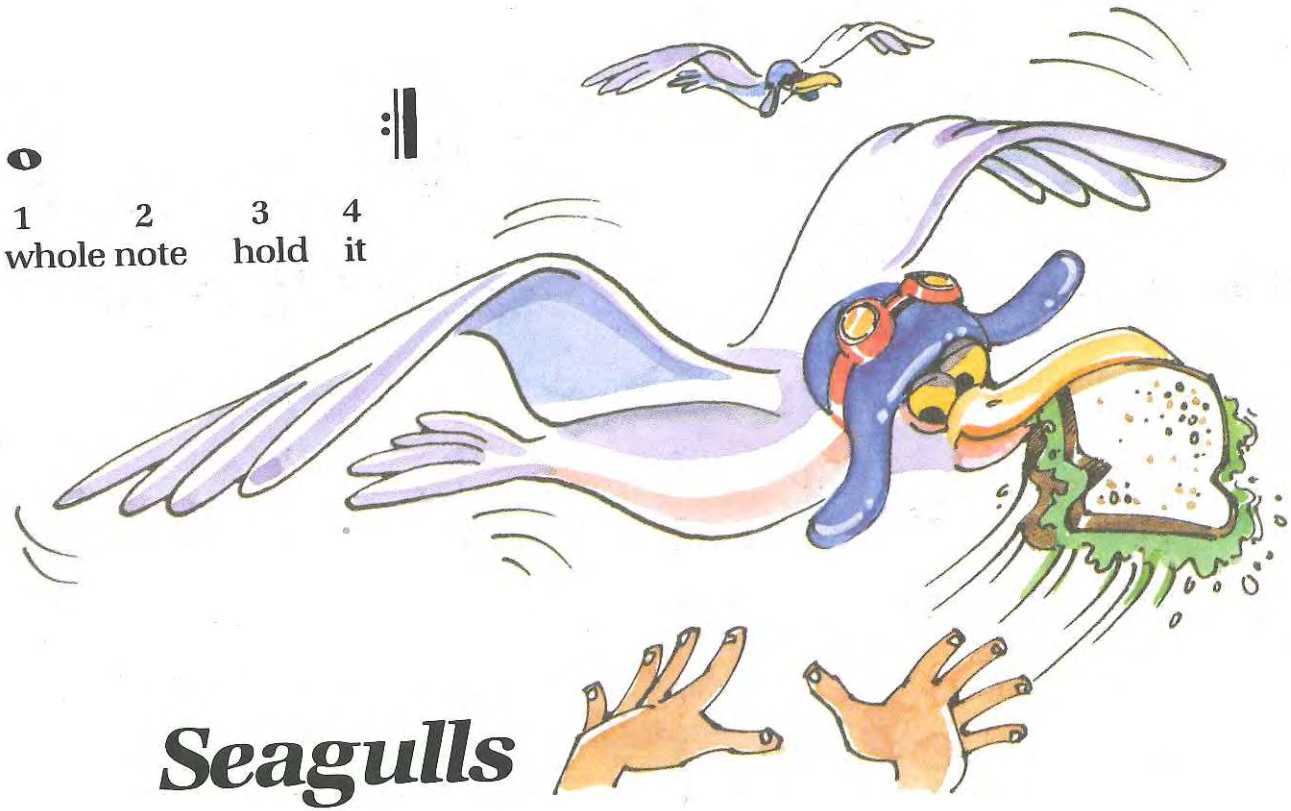
Hear the bell ring, on ev - 'ry hour.
"Ding, dong" it goes, high in the tow'r.

L.H. 4

R.H. 3

One, two, three, four.

L.H. 1

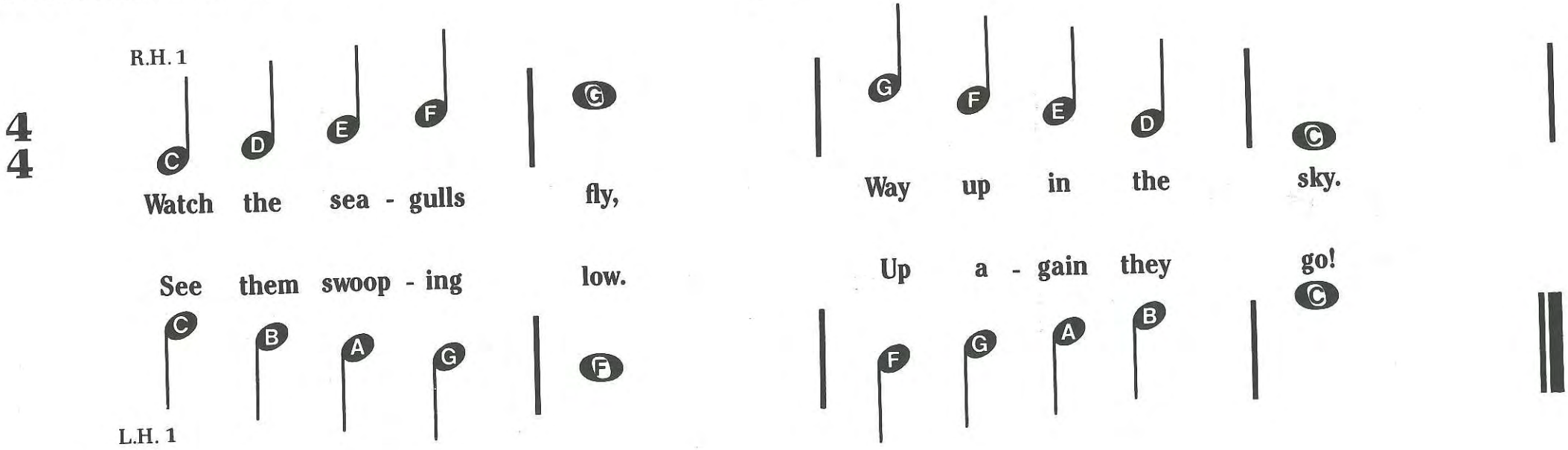


Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
or: quar-ter quar-ter half note whole note hold it

Practice Directions
1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.

Seagulls

Position: Middle C



Position: Middle C

At the Circus

4
4

R.H. 1

C D E F | G G | | | |

Let's go to the | cir - cus. | Clowns will greet us | there.

C B A B | C

1

L.H.

R.H.

C D E F | G G | | | |

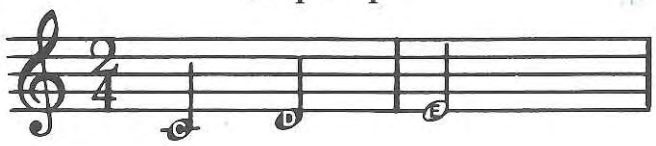
Clowns are ver - y | fun - ny. | They give us a | stare!

F G A B | C

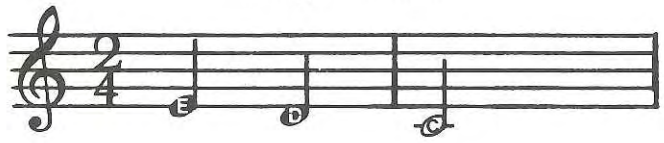
L.H.

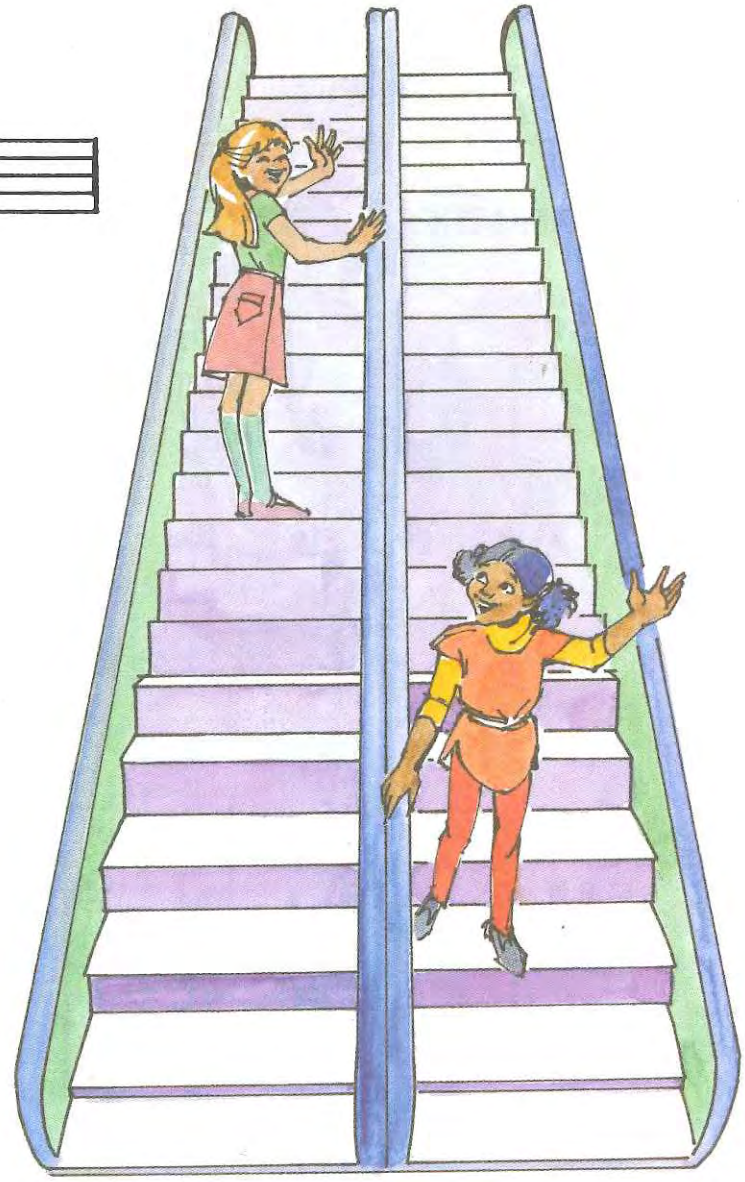
Stepping Notes

Steps Up

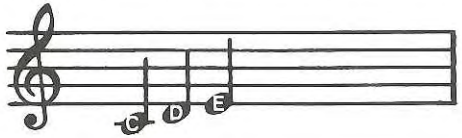


Steps Down





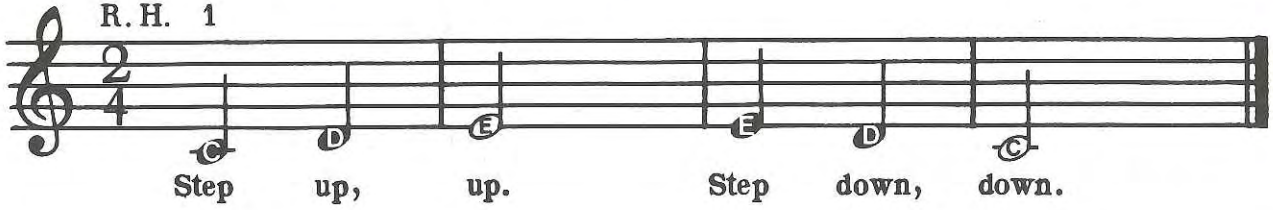
Middle C Position



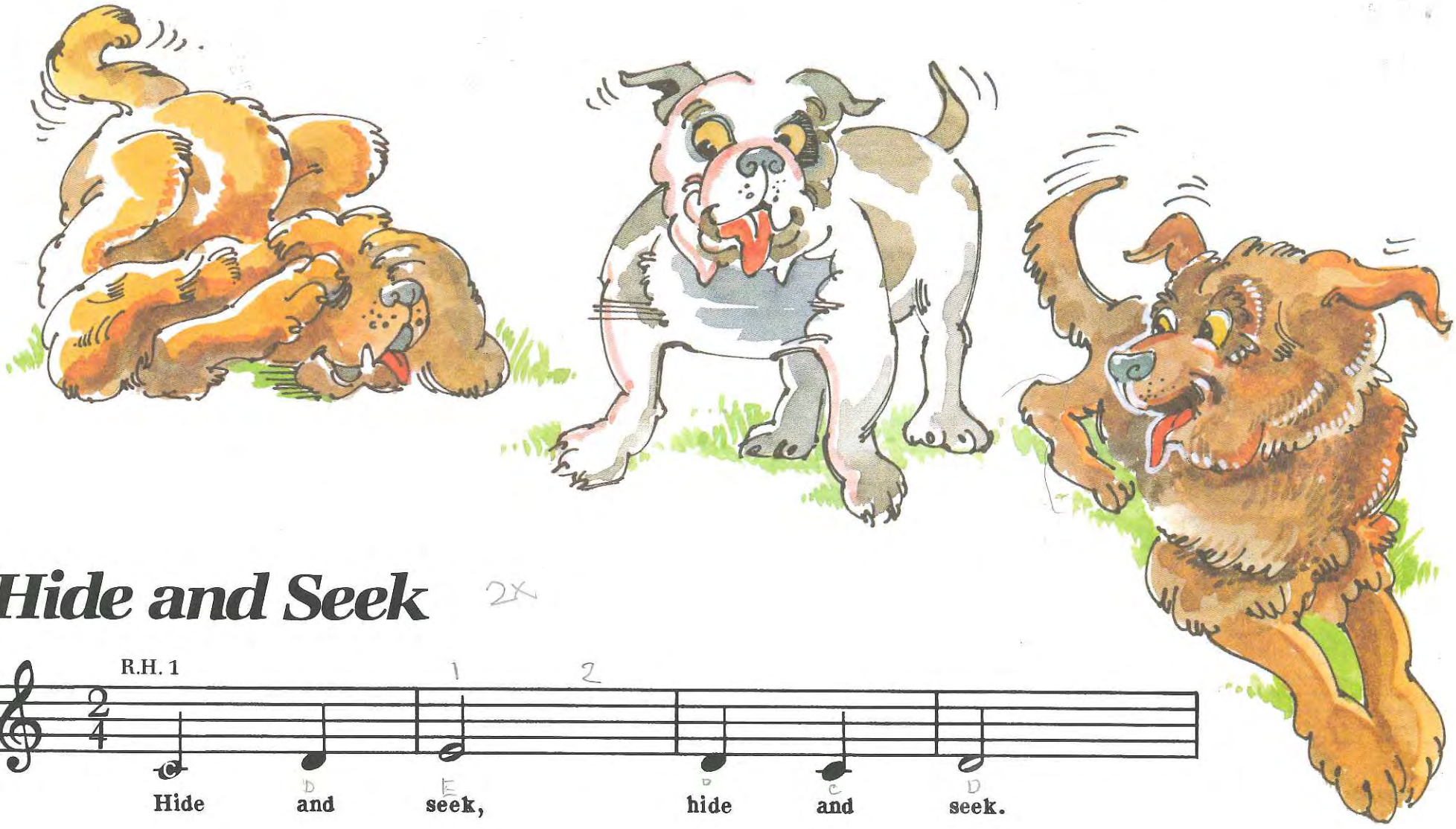
Practice Directions

1. Play and name the notes aloud.
2. Play and count the rhythm aloud.
3. Play and sing the words.
   Follow these directions for the rest of the book.

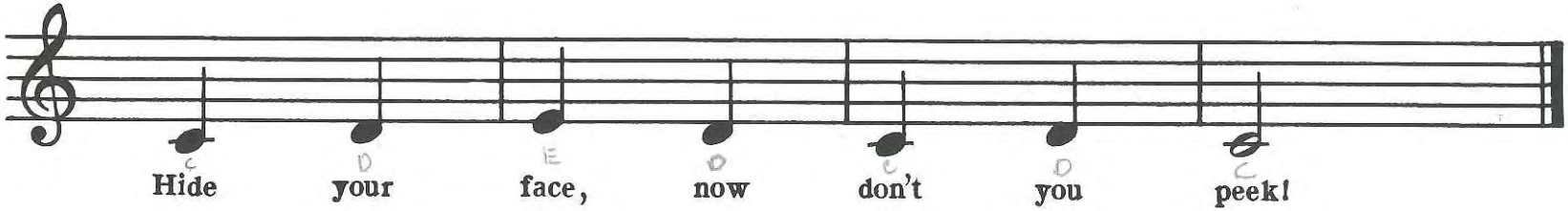
Stepping Up and Down



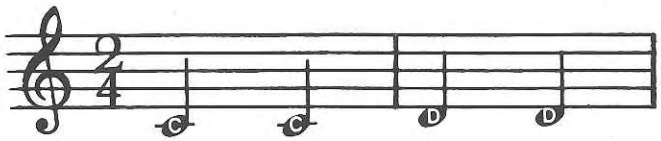
Teacher: The student is ready for **Bastien Music Flashcards**. Sort out and assign notes introduced in this lesson. Assign new cards as new notes are introduced.

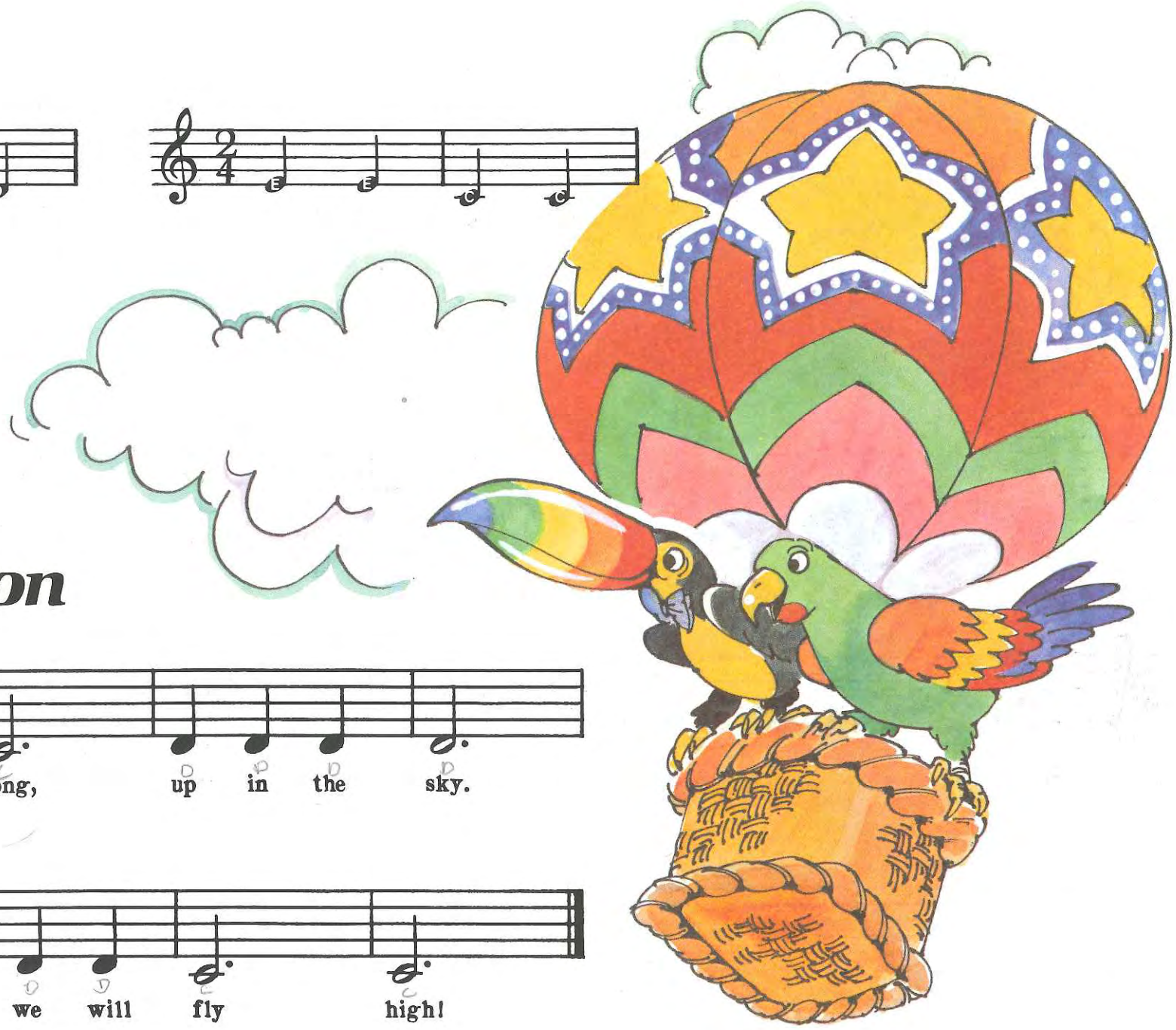


Hide and Seek

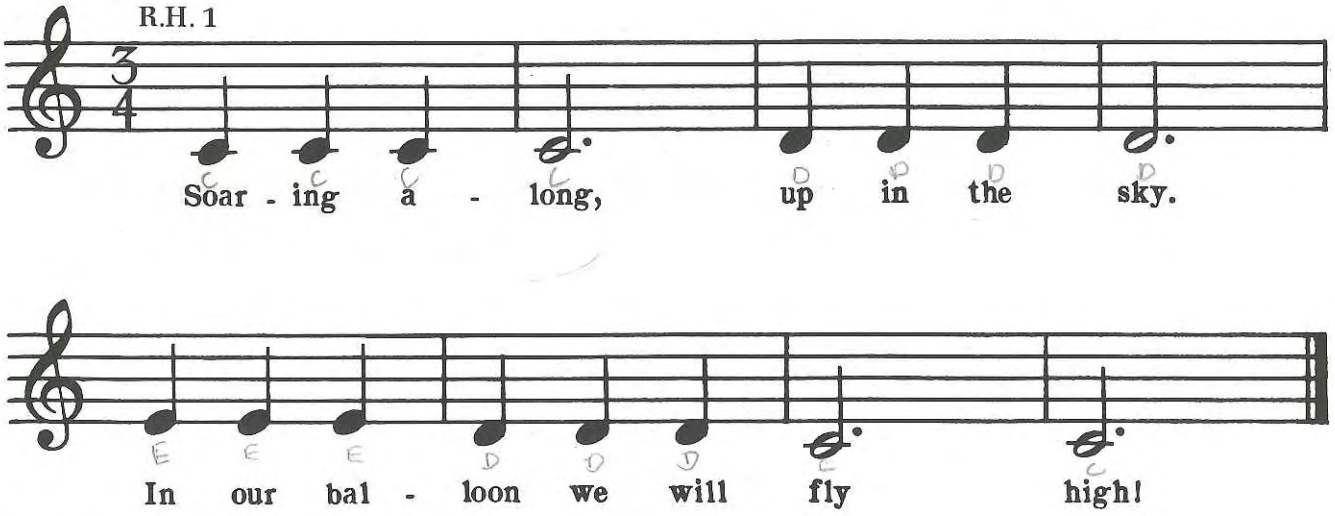


Repeated Notes

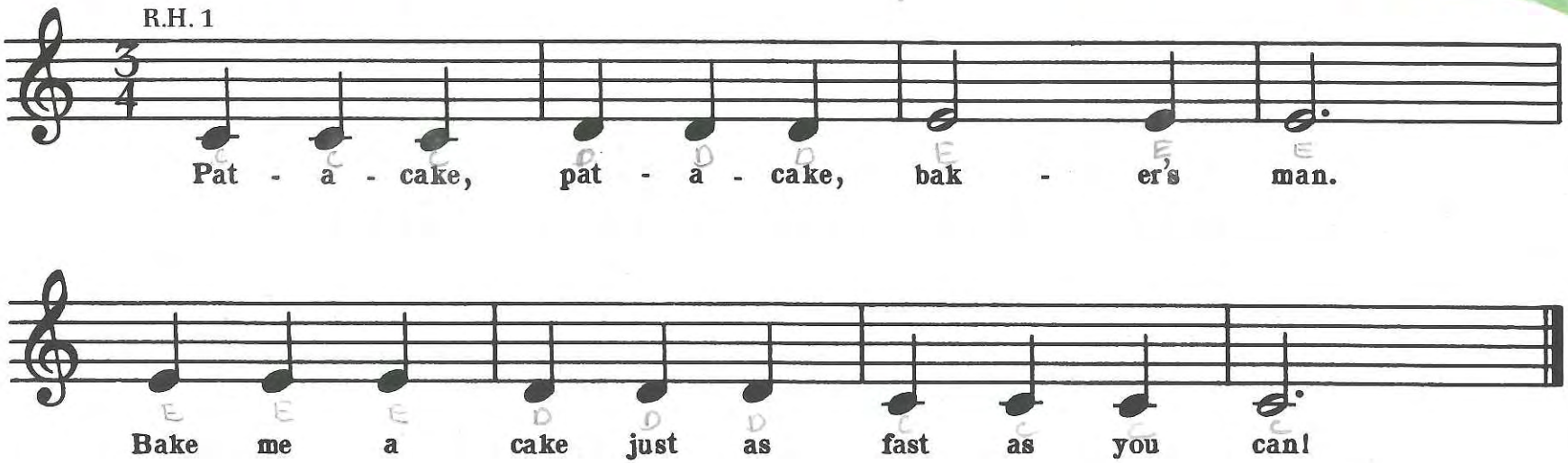




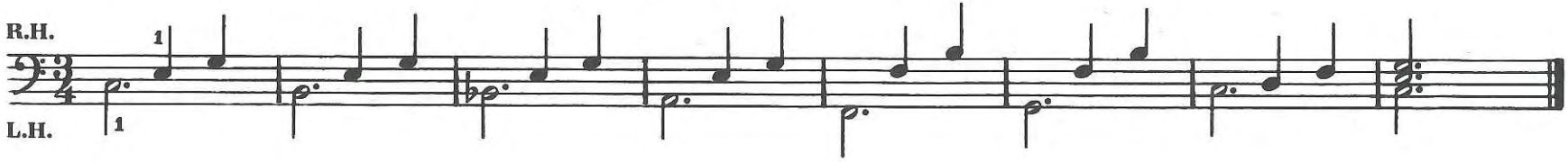
Hot Air Balloon



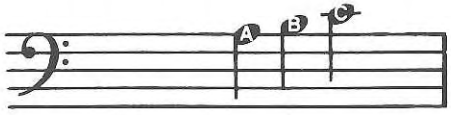
Pat-a-Cake



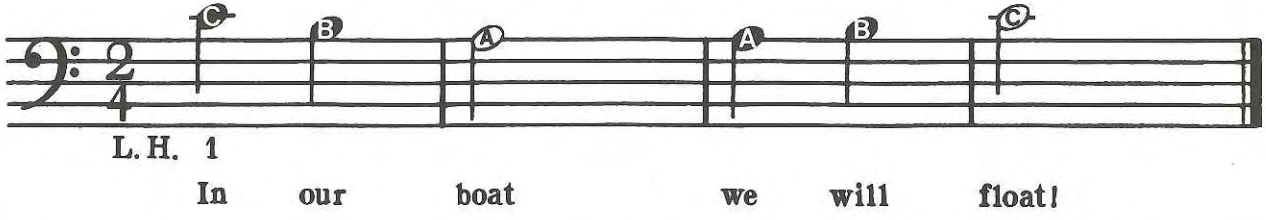
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



Middle C Position

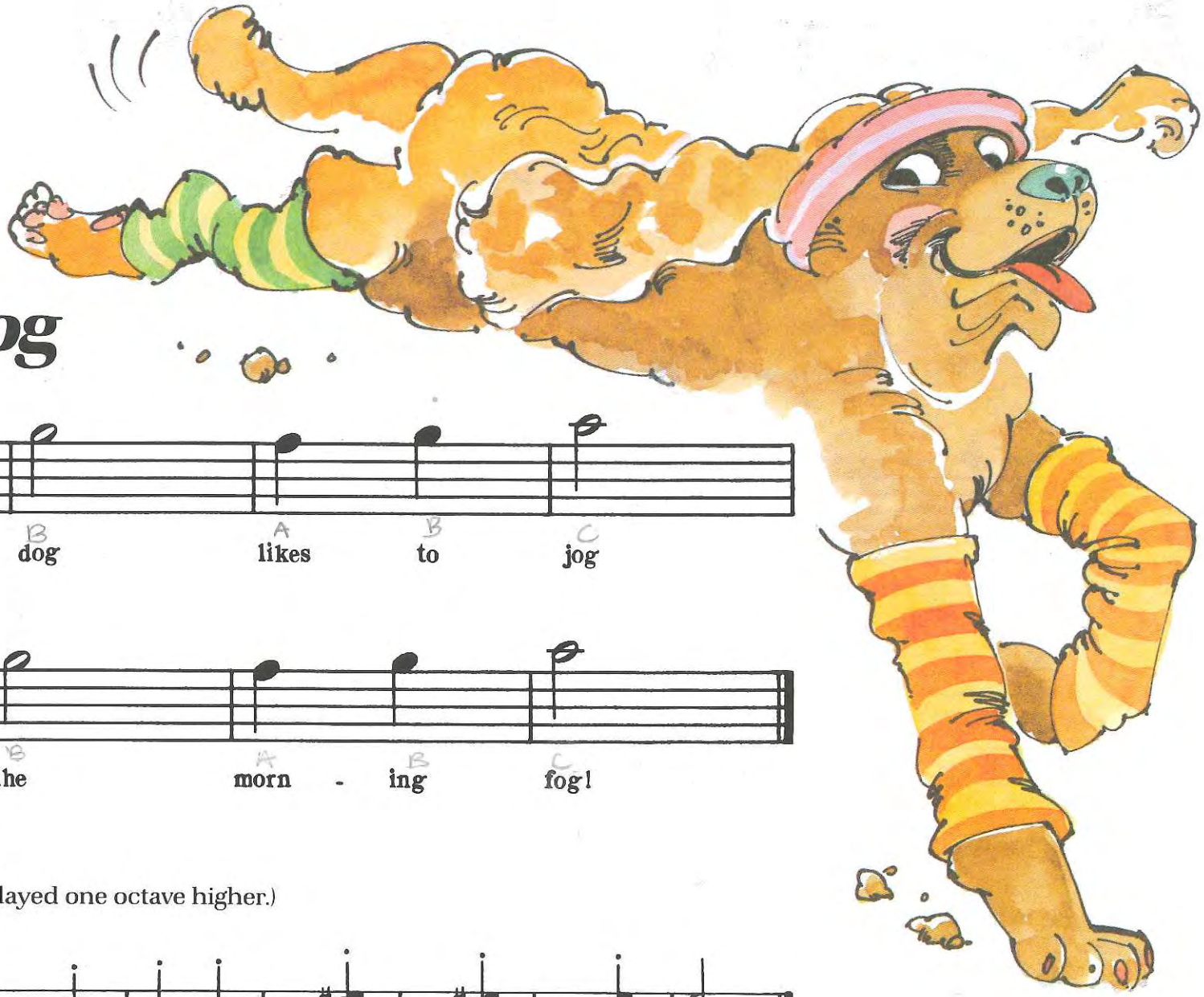


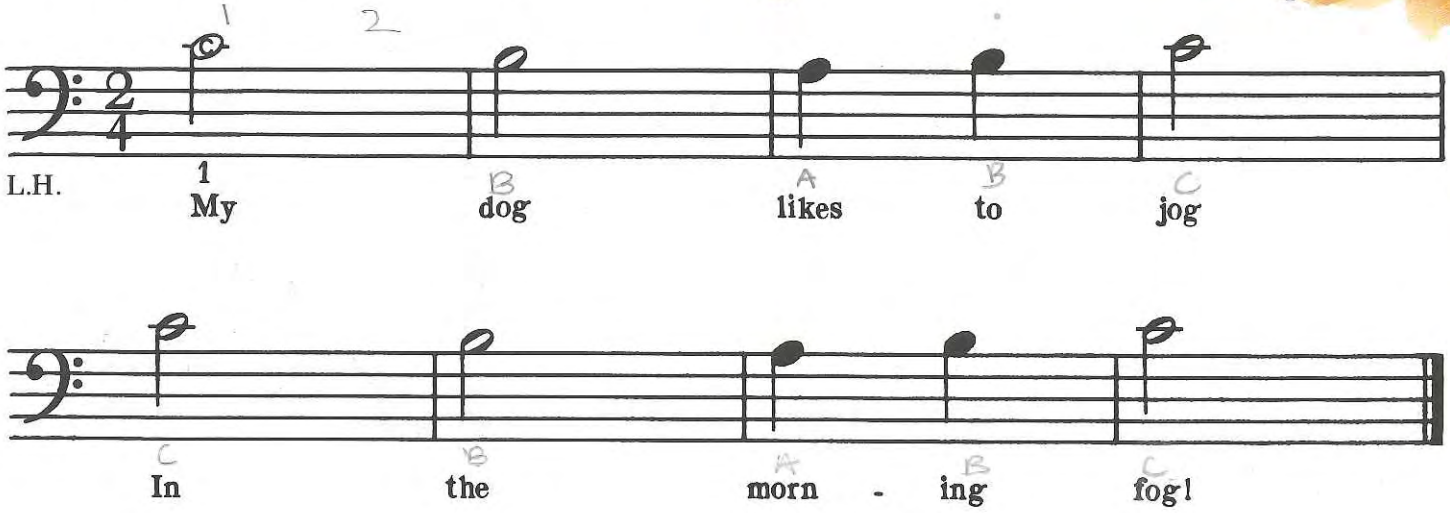
Boat Ride



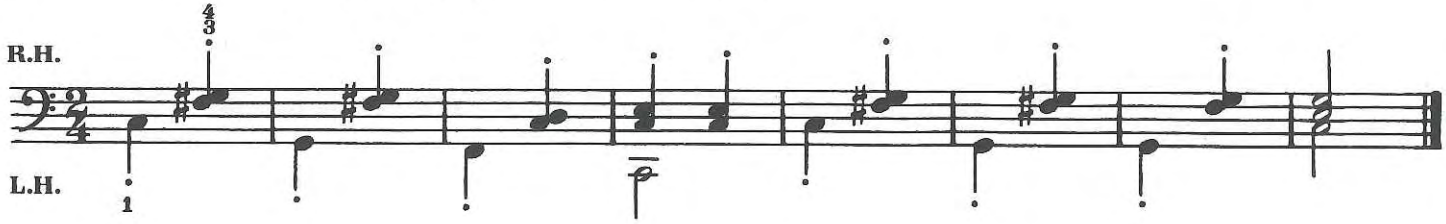
Teacher: Sort out these notes from the **Bastien Music Flashcards** and assign with this lesson. Assign new cards as new notes are introduced.

Jogging Dog

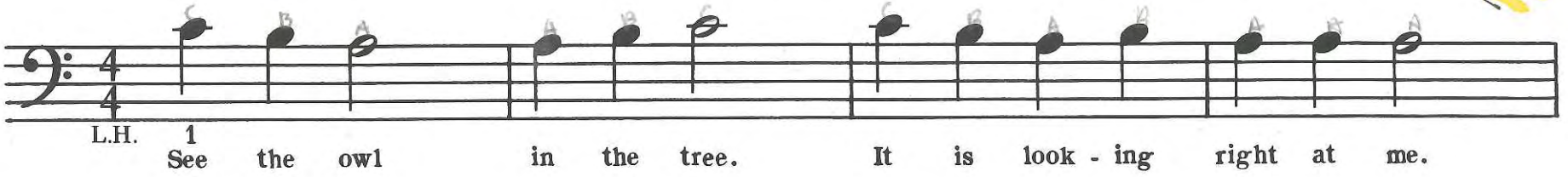


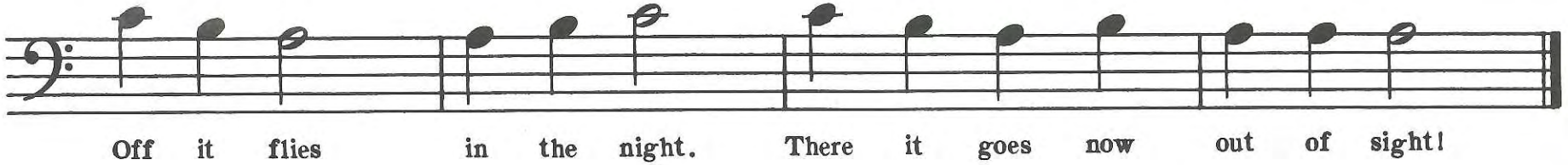


Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)

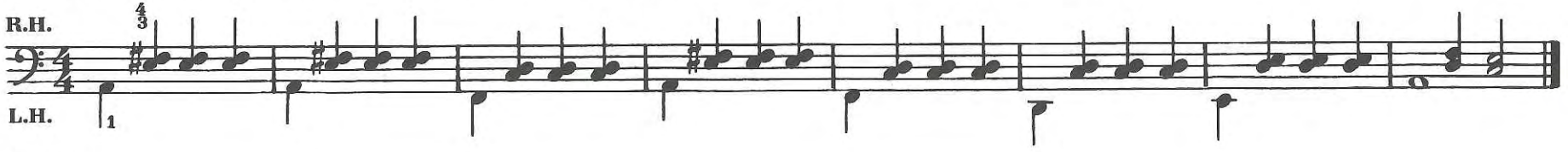


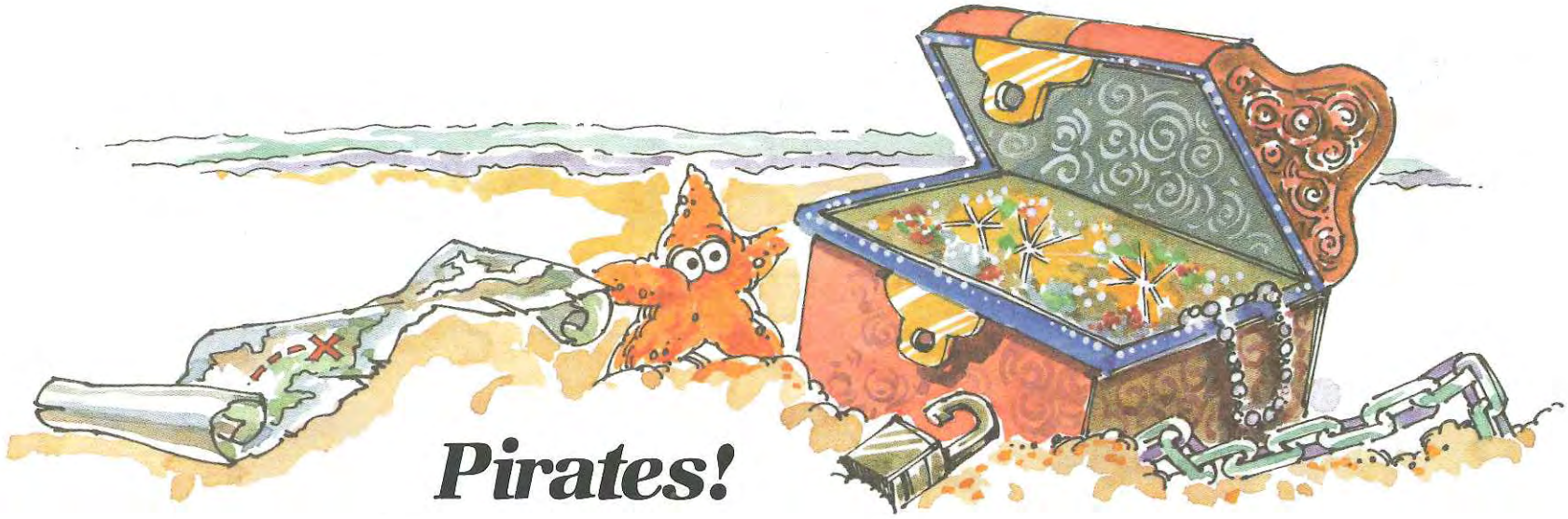
Night Owl



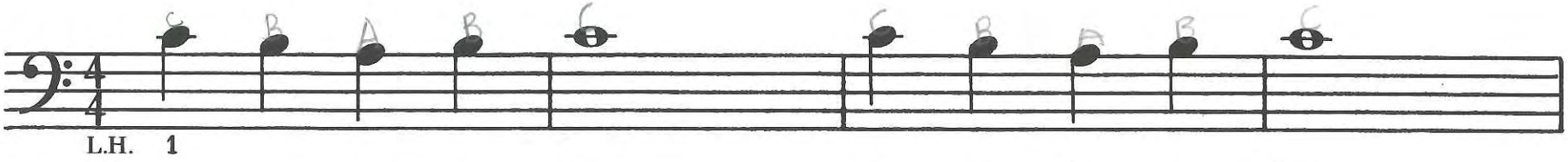


Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)

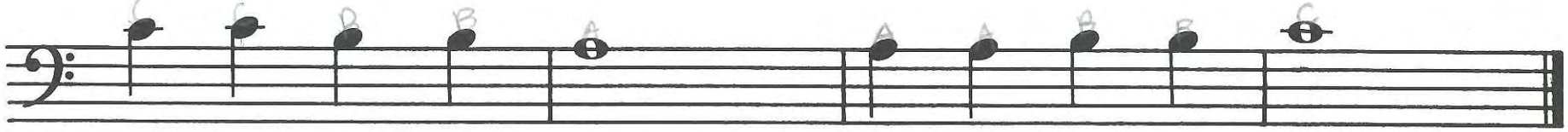




Pirates!

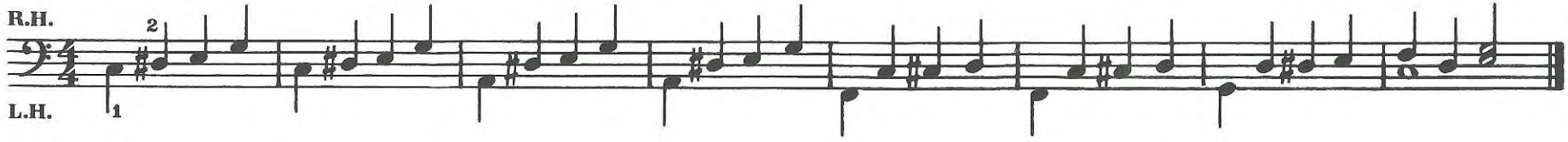


On a sand - y beach Pi - rates dug a hole.

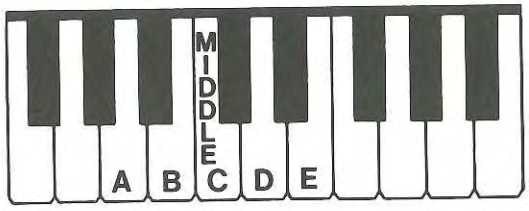


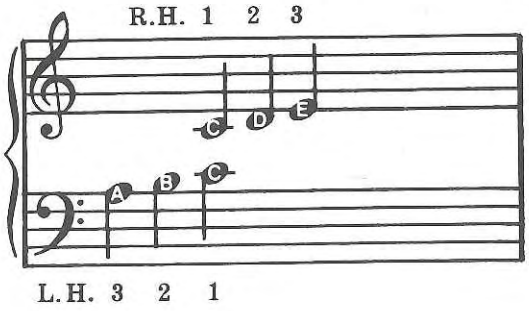
They put in a box. It holds gold they stole!

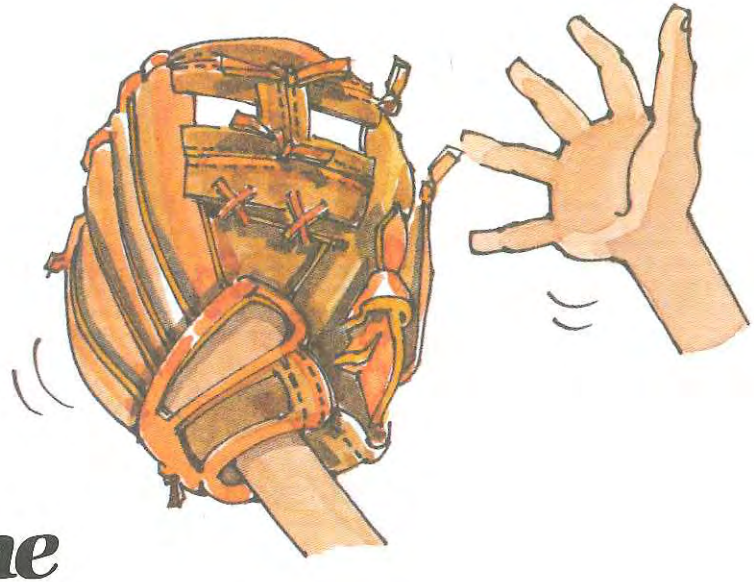
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



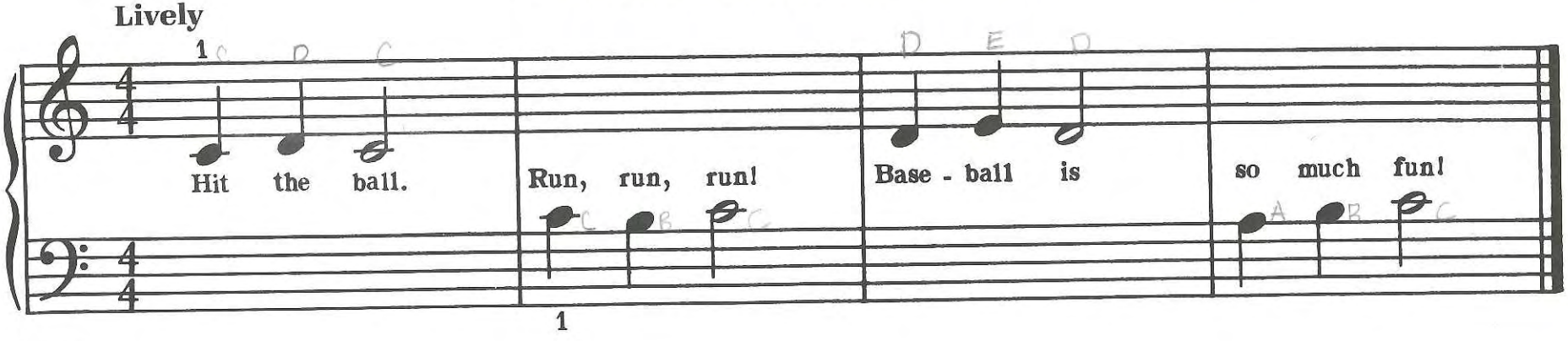
Middle C Position



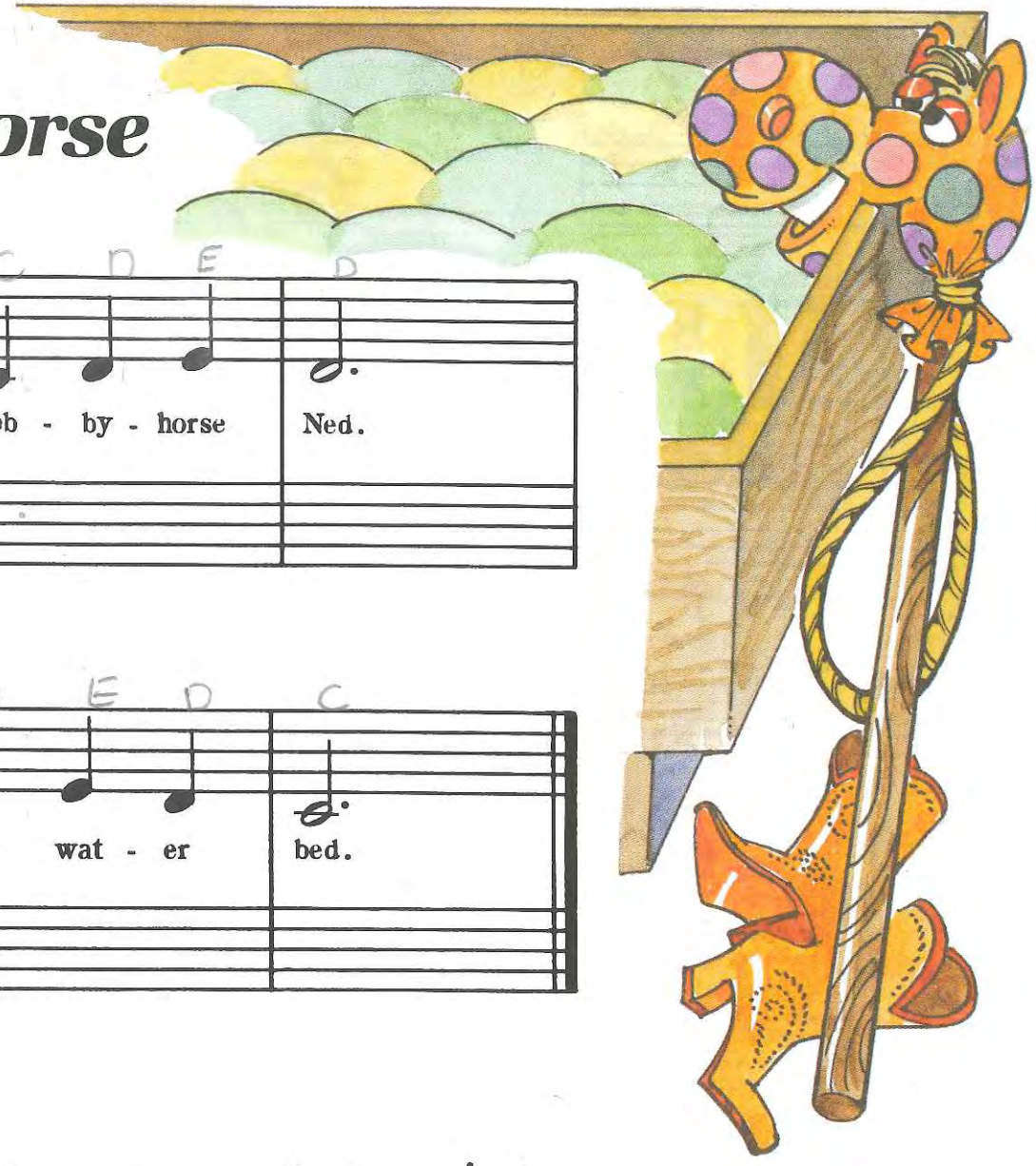




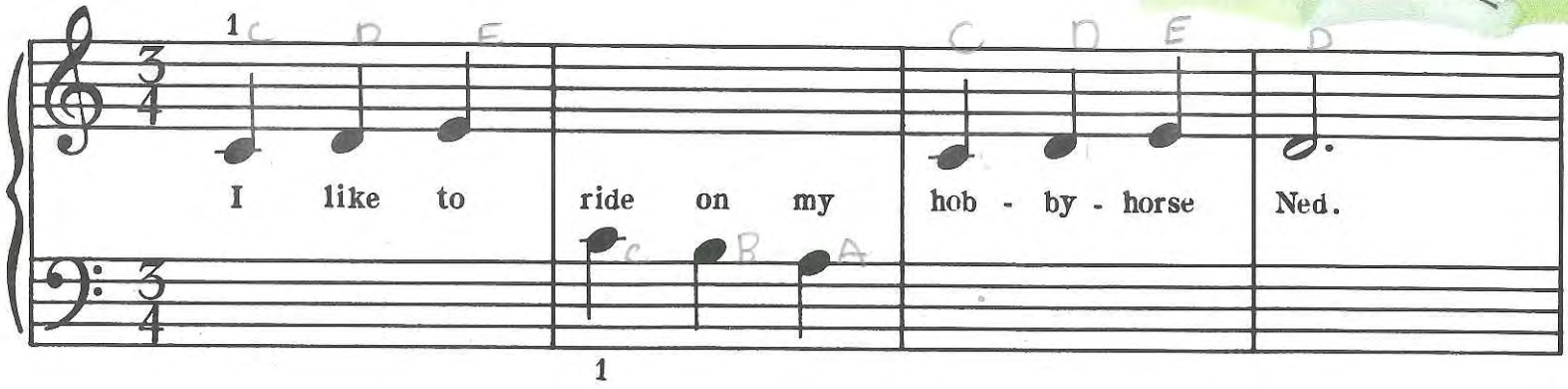
Baseball Game

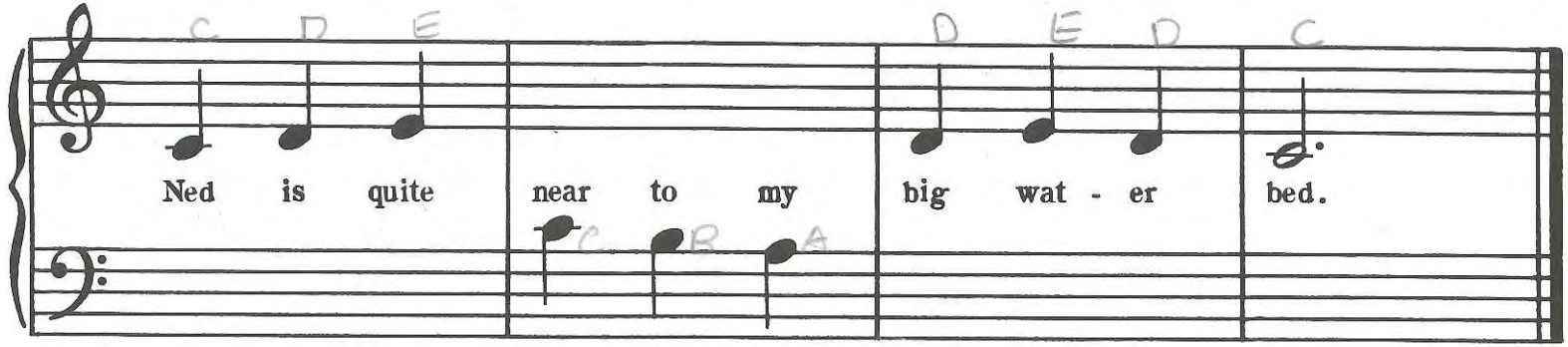


My Hobbyhorse

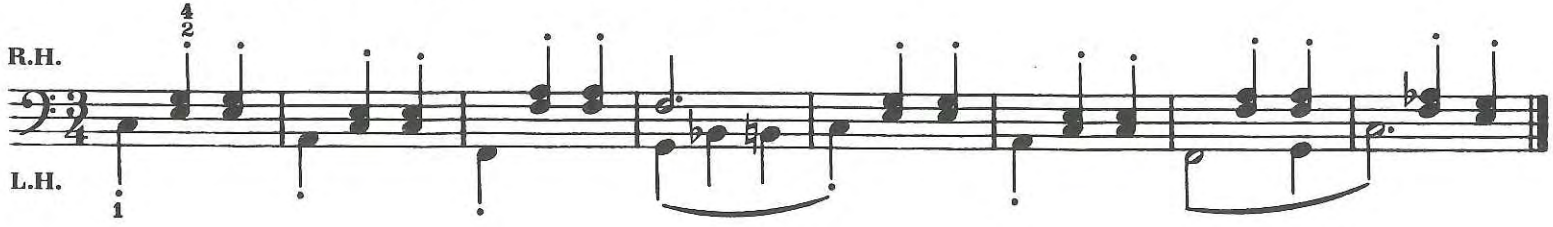


Happily

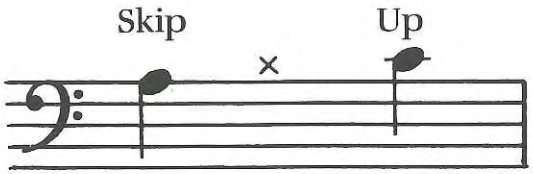


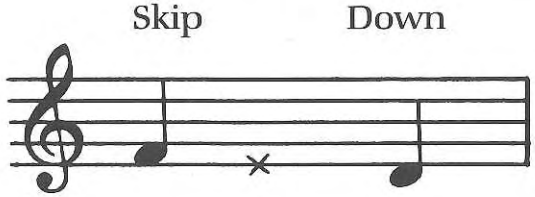


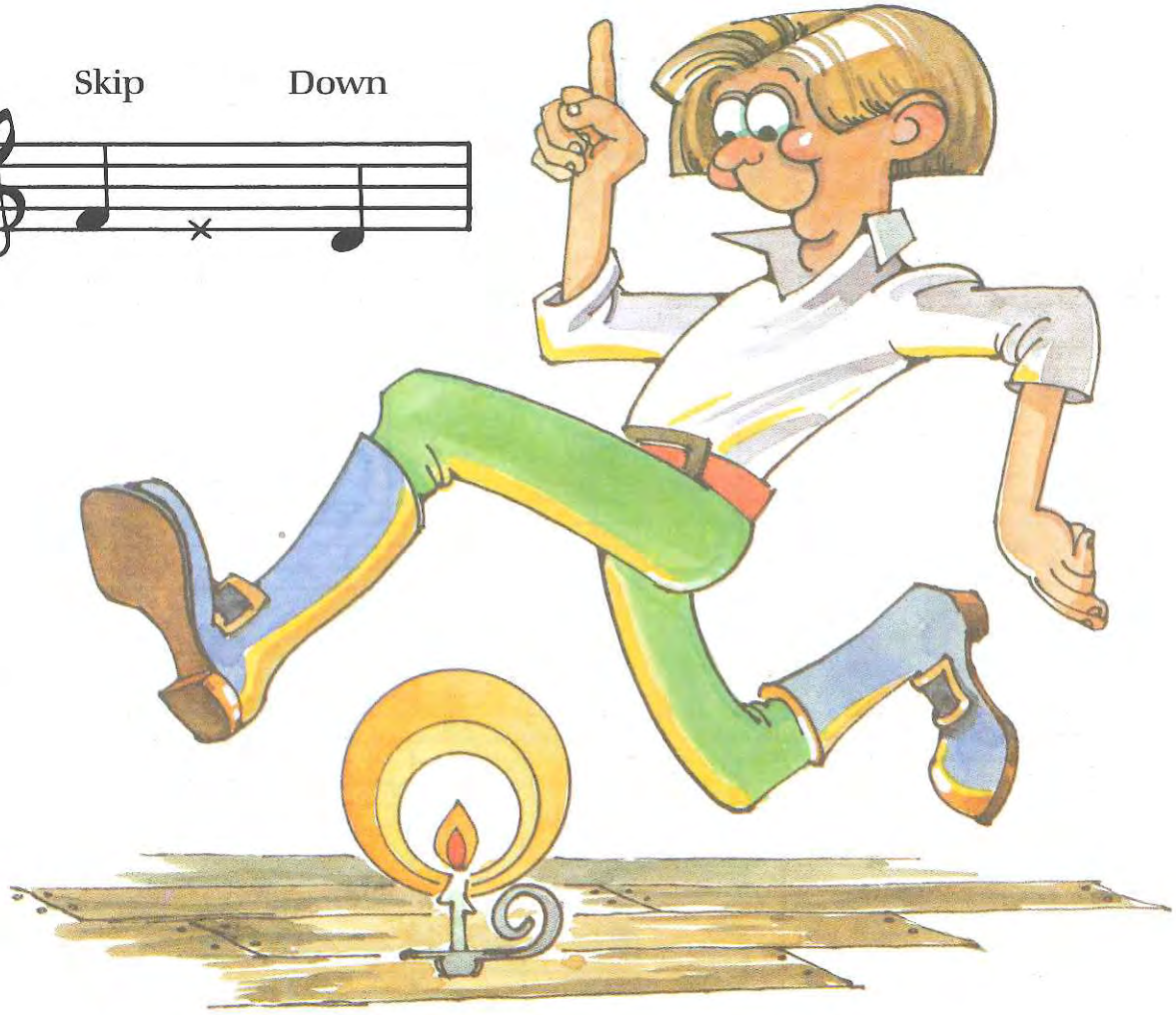
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



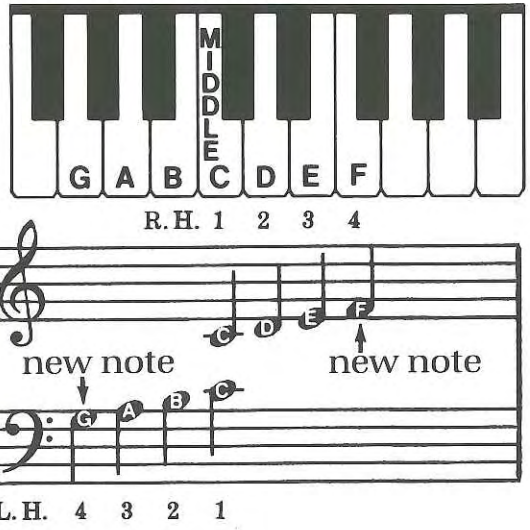
Skipping Notes







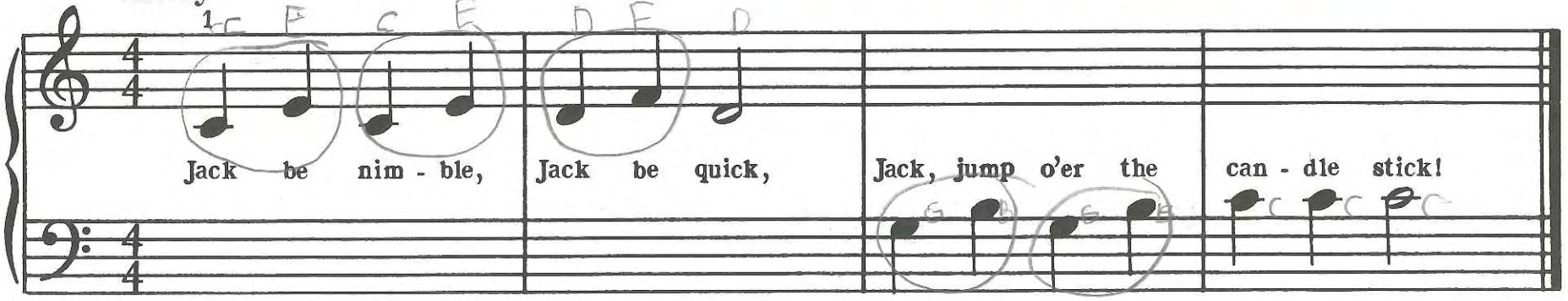
Middle C Position



★ Circle the skips

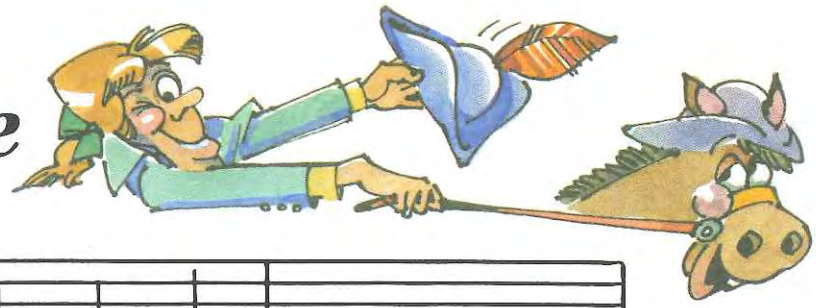
Jack Be Nimble

Lively

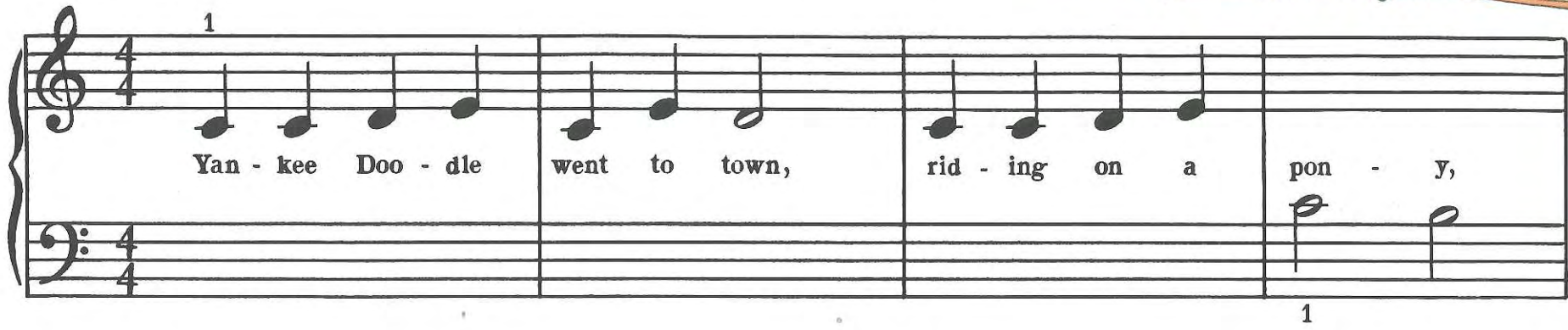


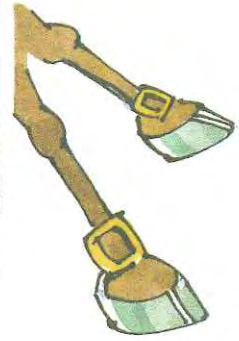
★ Circle the skips.

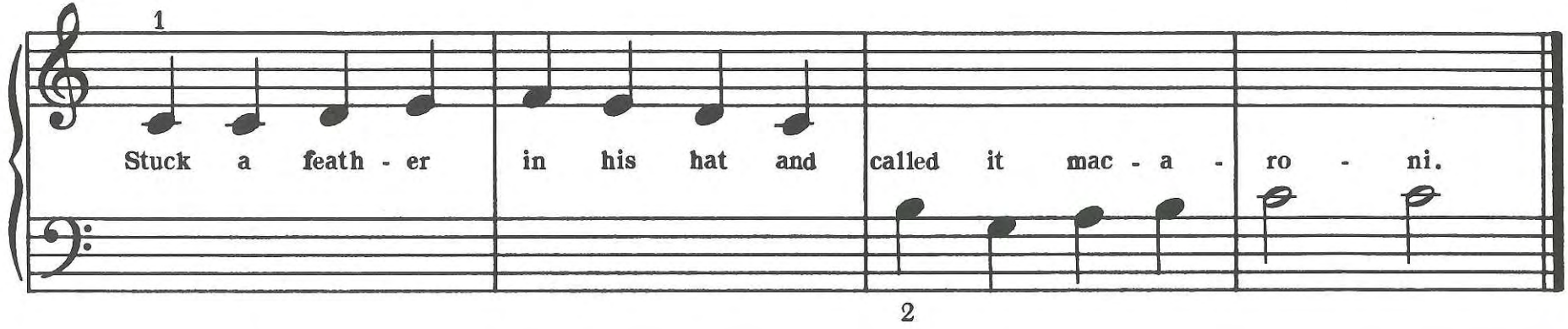
Yankee Doodle



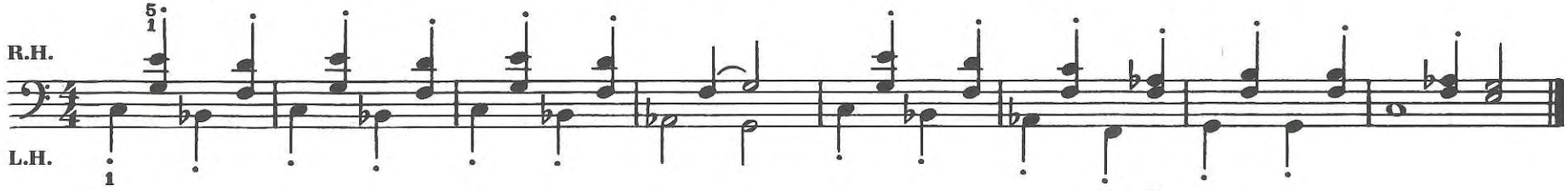
Brightly







Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



★ Circle the skips.

Thanksgiving Holiday

Slowly

1

It's a love - ly time of year. Thanks-giv - ing will soon be here!

4

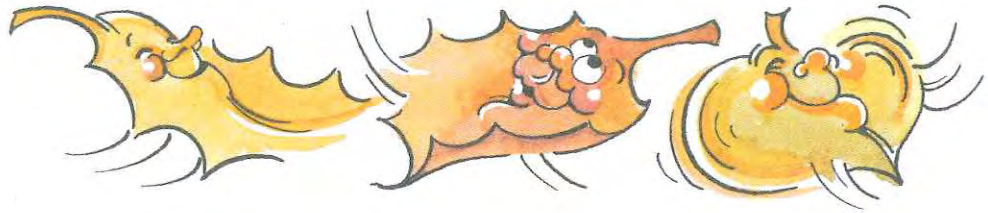
We'll have tur - key on a tray. Hap - py, hap - py hol - i - day!

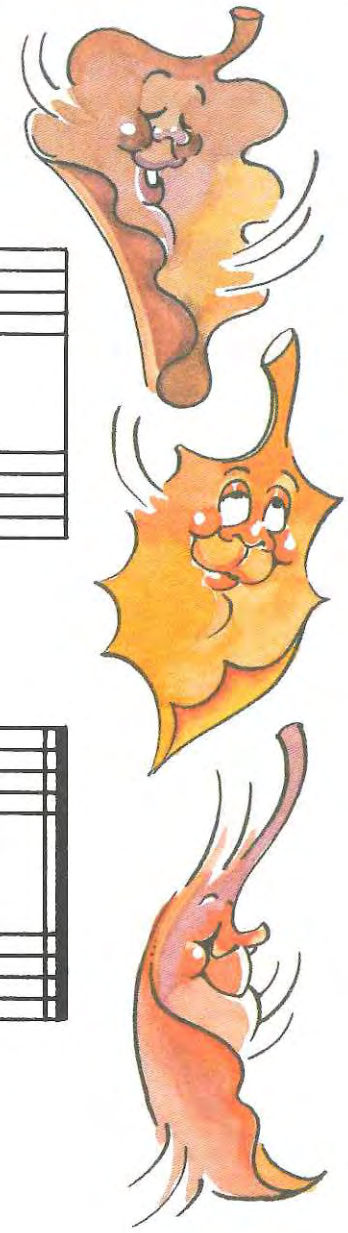
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave lower.)

R.H. 2 1

L.H. 1

Autumn Leaves





Moderately

1

See the leaves fall - ing down on the ground.

Bright leaves are com - ing down all a - round!

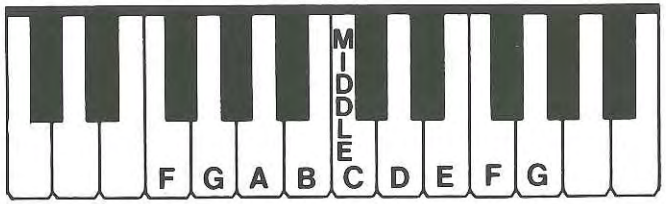
1

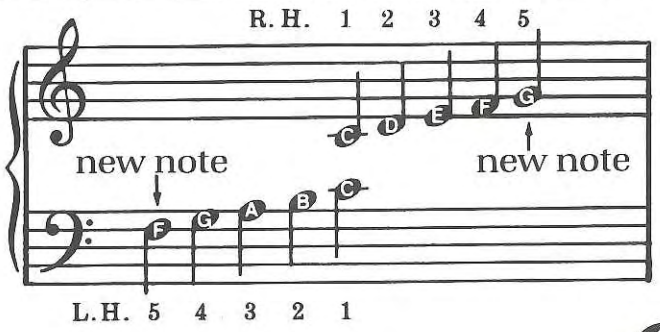
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)

R.H.

L.H.

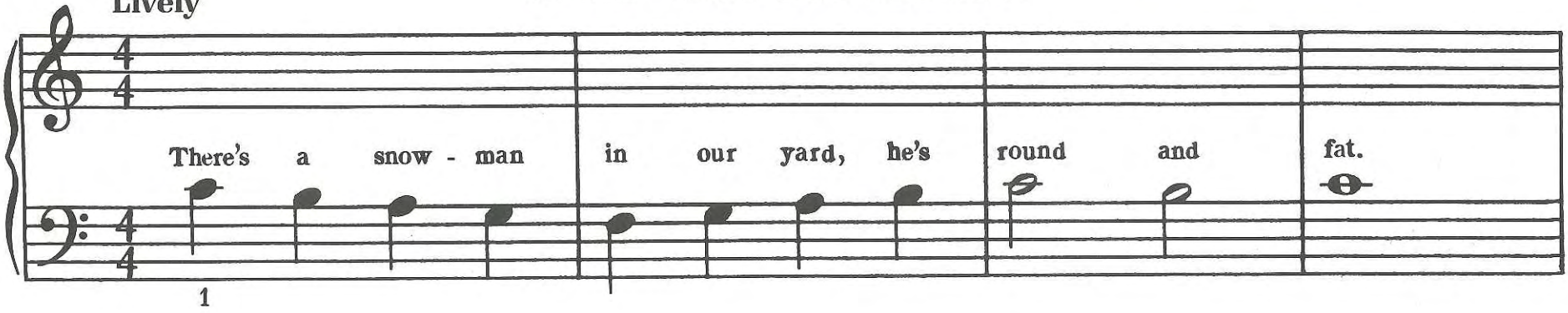
Middle C Position

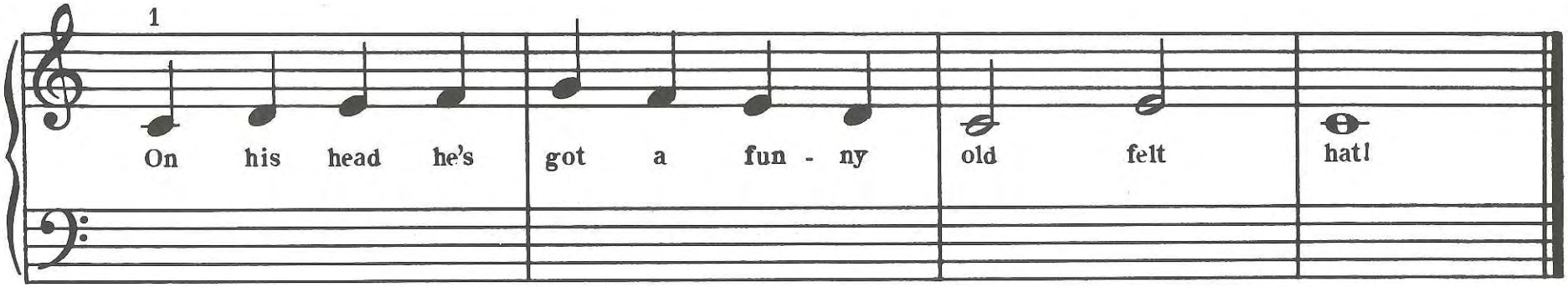




Our Snowman

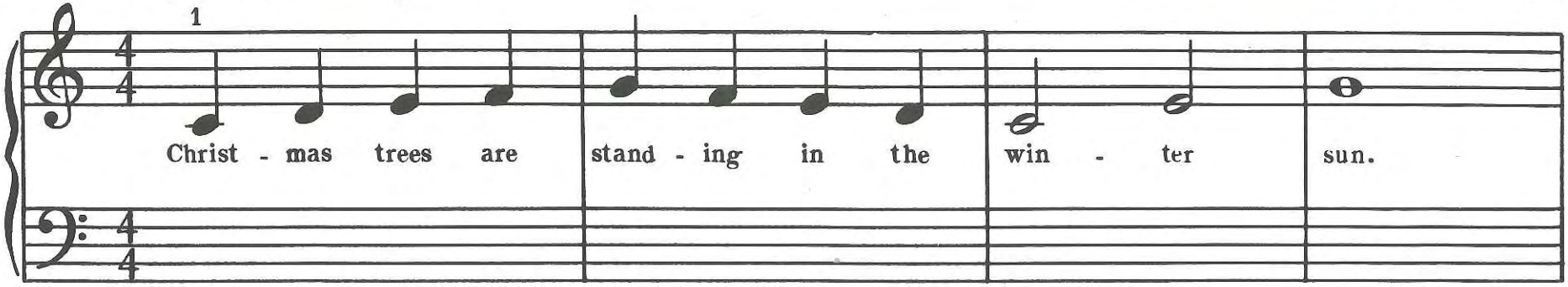
Lively

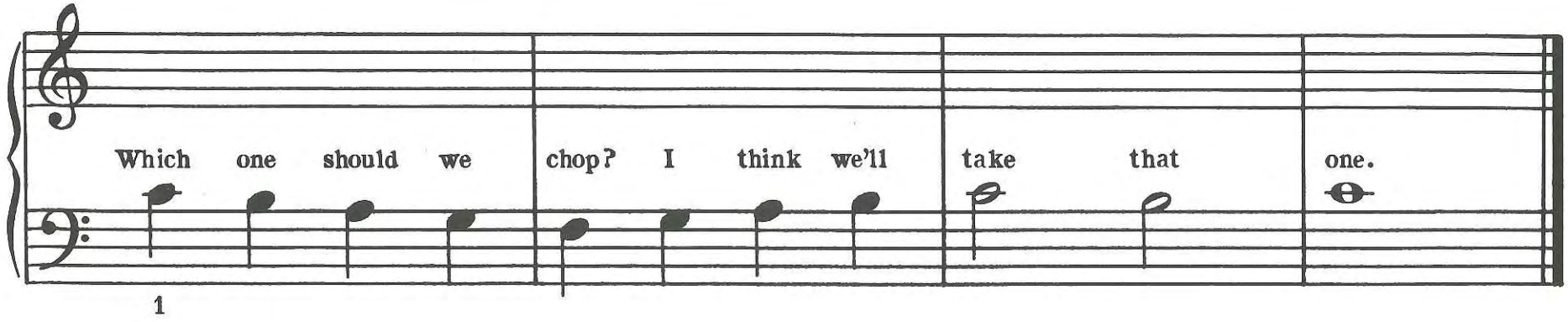




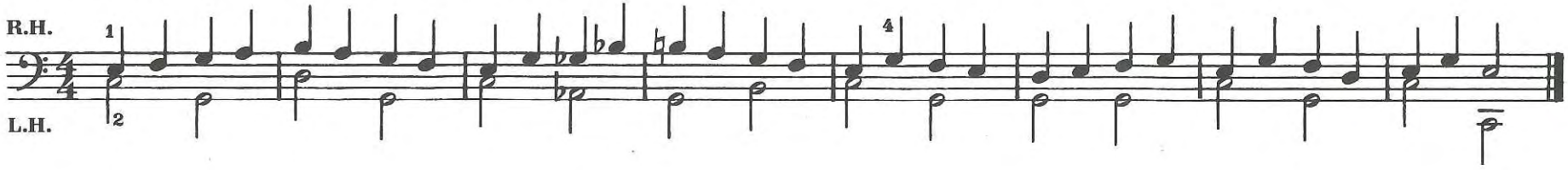
Christmas Trees

Moderately



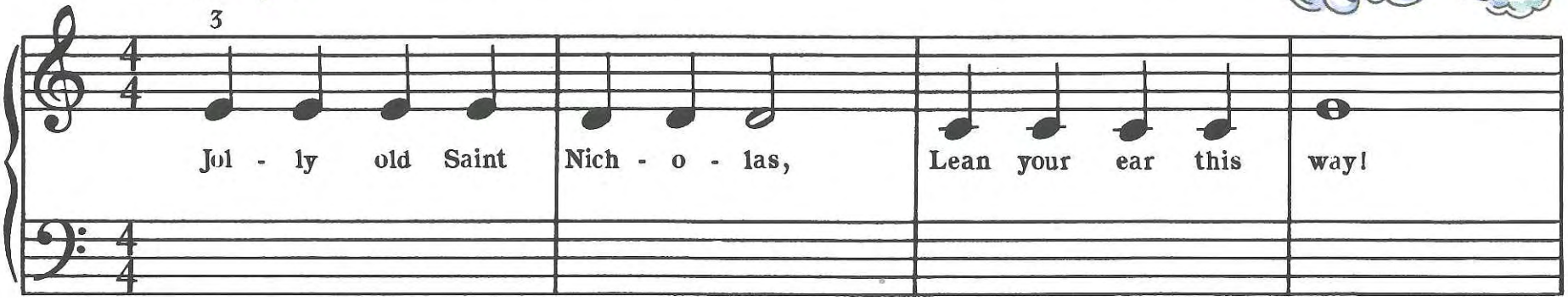


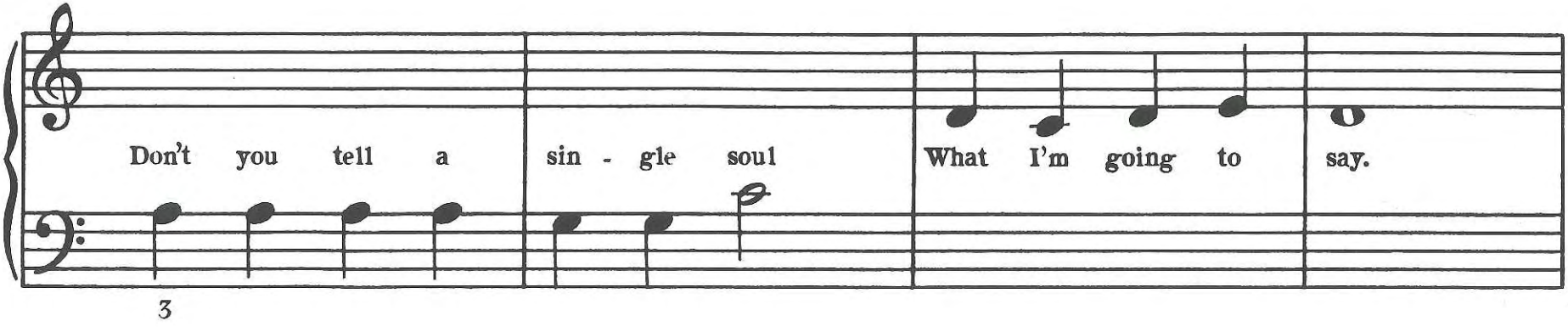
Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



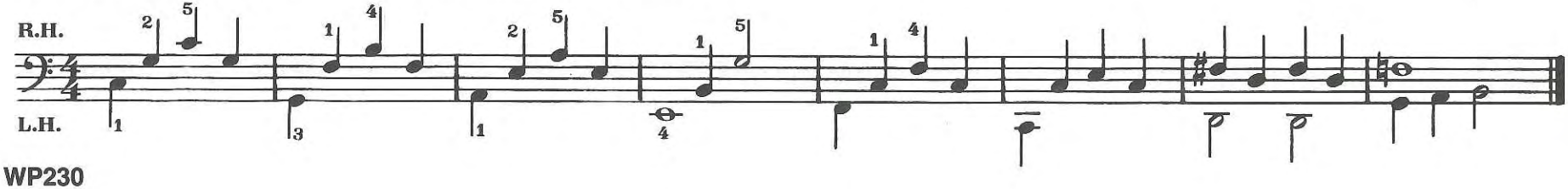
Jolly Old Saint Nicholas

Lively





Duet Part (Student part to be played one octave higher.)



3

Christ - mas Eve is com - ing soon, Now you dear old man,

Whis - per what you'll bring to me, Tell me if you can.